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No. 7766.—VOL. L. FRIDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 7, 1890. Price One Penny.

TO-NIGHTS ENTERTAINMENTS.

DRURY LANE (The National Theatre).

TWICE DAILY, at 1.30 and 7.15, AUGUSTUS HARRIS'S Pantomime, JACK AND THE BEANSTALK, produced on a scale of splendour surpassing in magnificence the displays offered to the public by Mr. AUGUSTUS HARRIS in previous years, and performed by a Company of Comedians each of whom is an acknowledged attraction in himself—Messrs. Nicholls, Leno, Lauri, jun., Griffiths Brothers, Conquest, jun., Leopold Brothers, Abbs, Payne (Clown), and Campbell; Misses Vernon, Faudelle, Hewitt, Ænea, and Duggan. Box-office open from 10 A.M. all day.

HAYMARKET THEATRE.

(Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. BEERBOHM TREE.)

TO-NIGHT, at 8.30, A MAN'S SHADOW, by ROBERT BUCHANAN. Mr. TREE as LAROQUE and LUVERSAN. Messrs. Fernandez, Kemble, C. Collette, E. M. Robson, Allan, Hargreaves, Tapping, Gurney, Harwood; Miss Julia Neilson, Miss Minnie Terry, Miss Norreys, and Mrs. Tree. At 7.45, GOOD FOR NOTHING: Miss Norreys. Doors open 7.30. Box-office open 10 till 5. Pit Circle (unreserved) 2s. 6d. Gallery 1s.

MATINEE of A MAN'S SHADOW TO-MORROW (Saturday) and following Saturday, at 2.30.

LYCEUM THEATRE.

(Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. HENRY IRVING.)

THE DEAD HEART—A Story of the French Revolution; TO-NIGHT at Eight o'clock (113th time). Mr. Henry Irving, Mr. Bancroft, Mr. Stirling, Mr. Righton; Miss Phillips, and Miss Ellen Terry. Box office (Mr. J. Hurst) open daily 10 to 5. Seats can also be booked by letter or telegram. Carriages, 10.45.—LYCEUM

CRITERION THEATRE.

(Lessee and Manager, Mr. CHARLES WYNDHAM.)

TO-NIGHT, at 8.15, CYRIL'S SUCCESS. (Last few nights.) Messrs. David James, Leonard Boyne, Arthur Elwood, S. Buist, G. Maxwell, H. Saker, G. B. Phillips, G. Stanton, L. Chapuy; Mesdames Olga Brandon, Compton, F. Frances, E. Brunton, E. Vining.

GAIETY THEATRE.

TO-NIGHT, at 8 punctually, RUY BLAS AND THE BLASE ROUE. Miss Ellen Farren, Miss Marion Hood, Miss Sylvia Grey, Miss Linda Verner, Miss Blanche Massey, and Miss Letty Lind: Mr. Fred Leslie, Mr. Fred Storey, Mr. Dalton Somers. Doors open at 7.30.

TOOLE'S THEATRE.

Last four nights of Mr. J. L. TOOLE prior to his departure for Australia.

TO-NIGHT (Last Night), at 8.15, PAUL PRY and THE SPITALFIELDS WEAVER. At 7.30, HESTER'S MYSTERY. Doors open at 7. TO-MORROW (Saturday at 2 and 8.15, THE SERIOUS FAMILY, and OFF THE LINE. Box-office open daily 10 to 6. THE BUNGALOW, by FRED. HORNER, THIS AFTERNOON.

ADELPHI THEATRE.

A. and S. GATTI, Sole Proprietors and Managers.)

THIS EVENING, at 8.0, LONDON DAY BY DAY Immense success. 127th Night. Mr. George Alexander, Messrs. Marius, J. L. Shine, Lionel Rignold, W. L. Abingdon, Arthur Lyle, Theo. Balfour, M. Bode, H. Russell, James East, W. Northcote, J. Northcote, &c.: Mesdames Alma Murray, Mary Rorke, Kate James, Charlotte Elliot, and Clara Jecks. Doors open at 7.0. THE MARRIED BACHELOR, at 7.15.

VAUDEVILLE THEATRE.

(Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. THOMAS THORNE.)

THIS EVENING at 8. THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL. Messrs. Fred Thorne, T. B. Thalberg, C. Maude, F. Gillmore, J. S. Blythe, C. Harbury, F. Grove, O. Yorke, &c., and John Maclean; Mesdames Winifred Emery, Mary Collette, L. Bryer, Hanbury, &c., and Coralie Owen, MATINEE TO-MORROW (Saturday), at 2.30.

TO-MORROW and EVERY EVENING, at 8, CLARISSA. New Drama, in Four Acts, by ROBERT BUCHANAN. Mr. Thomas Thorne and Original Cast.

THE GLOBE THEATRE.

(Lessee and Manager Mr. F. R. BENSON.)

THIS EVENING, at 8.0 (doors open 7.30), THE TAMING OF THE SHREW. Messrs. Black, Athol-Forde, Stuart, Phillips, Gurney, Ross, Shaw, Benson, Weir, Howard, Grenville; Mesdames Benson, Grey, Hawkins, Denvil. MATINEES NEXT and FOLLOWING THURSDAY AFTERNOONS at 2.30. N.B.—A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM EVERY EVENING, at 8 (Thursdays and Fridays excepted), and WEDNESDAY and SATURDAY MATINEES, at 2.30.

PRINCESS'S THEATRE.

MASTER AND MAN.

TO-NIGHT, at 7.45, HENRY PETTITT and GEORGE R. SIMS powerful play, MASTER AND MAN, in which the following popular artists will appear:—Messrs. Henry Neville, J. H. Barnes, Robert Pateman, E. W. Gardiner, Sidney Howard, Charles Dalton, Bassett Roe, Fred Shepherd, George Dalziel, E. Mayeur, E. Webster Lawson; Miss Nellie Lingard, Mrs. Frank Huntley, and Miss Bella Pateman. Doors open 7.15. Commence 7.45. Box-office (Mr. A. Frye) open daily from ten till five. Seats at all the libraries.

PRINCE OF WALES' THEATRE.

(Lessee and Manager, Mr. HORACE SEDGER.)

TO-NIGHT, at 8.30, MARJORIE. Misses Phyllis Broughton, Mdme. Amadi and Miss Camille d'Arville; Messrs. C. Hayden Coffin, Joseph Tapley, Henry Ashley, Frederick Wood, Albert James, T. A. Shale, A. T. Hendon, and Harry Monkhouse. Preceded at 7.45 by JOHN SMITH. Morning Performance EVERY SATURDAY at 2.30.

GARRICK THEATRE.

(Lessee and Manager, Mr. JOHN HARE.)

THIS EVENING at eight, LA TOSCA. (LAST WEEKS.) Mesdames Bernard Beere, Rose Leclercq, Bessie Hatton; Messrs. Lewis Waller, Herbert Waring, Sidney Brough, Gilbert Farquhar, Lawrance D'Orsay, C. Dodsworth, C. Hudson, F. H. Knight, F. Powell, R. Power, S. Pringle, R. Harding, and J. Forbes Robertson. Address applications for seats to Box-office, open from 10 A.M. to 6 P.M. Doors open at 7.30 P.M.

SHAFTESBURY THEATRE.

Messrs. E. S. WILLARD and JOHN LART, Lessees and Managers. Proprietor, Mr. JOHN LANCASTER.

THIS EVENING at 8, THE MIDDLEMAN.

Mr. Willard, Messrs. Mackintosh, E. W. Garden, H. Cane, H. V. Esmond, Ivan Watson, Cecil Crofton, Royston Keith: Mesdames Maude Millett, Annie Hughes, E. H. Brooke, Agnes Verity, St. Ange, Eva Moore, &c. Box-office now open daily, 10 to 5. Doors open 7.40. Carriages 11. Acting Manager, Mr. W. H. GRIFFITHS.—SHAFTESBURY THEATRE.

LYRIC THEATRE.

(Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. HENRY J. LESLIE.)

TO-NIGHT, at 8.20, THE RED HUSSAR. Mesdames Marie Tempest, Birdie Irving, Maud Holland, H. Coveney, and Florence Dysart; Messrs. Ben Davies, Alec Marsh, Albert Christian, J. Le Hay, Frank M. Wood, and Arthur Williams. Preceded at 7.30 by WARRANTED BURGLAR PROOF.

COMEDY THEATRE.

TO-NIGHT and EVERY EVENING at 9 P.M., the celebrated Comedy PINK DOMINOS, adapted by JAMES ALBERY, with powerful cast, including Messrs. Herbert Standing, Alfred Maltby, A. Boucicault, &c., and C. H. Hawtrey; Mesdames Goldney, Robertson, Cowell, Alma Stanley, and Rose Saker; preceded, at 8, by ONE SUMMER NIGHT, by F. W. Broughton. Box office open daily from 10 A.M. to 10 P.M. Telephone, 3,724.

COURT THEATRE.

(Proprietors, MRS. JOHN WOOD and Mr. ARTHUR CHUDLEIGH.)

TO-NIGHT at 9, 135th performance of AUNT JACK. Mr. Arthur Cecil, Mr. Weedon Grossmith, Mr. Eric Lewis, Mr. F. Mervin, Mr. Fred Cape, Mr. A. Aynesworth, Mr. W. Phillips, Mr. F. Farren, Mr. Powell, Mr. W. Quinton: Miss Rosina Filippi, Miss Florence Wood, and Mrs. John Wood. At 8.15, TO THE RESCUE, Mr. R. Boleyn, Mr. F. Farren. Miss F. Harrington and Mrs. Phelps.

NOTICE.—SPECIAL MATINEE of AUNT JACK TO-MORROW (Saturday), February 8th. Doors open 2, commence at 2.30.

AVENUE THEATRE.

(Under the Management of Mr. GEORGE ALEXANDER.)

TO-NIGHT, at 8.15, FOOL'S MATE. At 9 o'clock, DR. BILL.

Messrs. Frederick Terry, Nutcombe Gould, Benjamin Webster, George Capel, Henry Grattan, and Albert Chevalier; Mesdames Robins, Carlotta Leclercq, Marie Linden, Mary Kingsley, Gracie Murielle, Laura Graves, Edith Kenward, and Fanny Brough. Doors open 7.45.

MORNING PERFORMANCE TO-MORROW (Saturday) and EVERY SATURDAY at 2.30.

Doors open 2 o'clock. Box office open daily from 10.30 till 5.

Business Manager, Mr. R. D'ALBERTSON.

ROYALTY THEATRE.

TO-NIGHT at Nine o'clock, TRA LA LA TOSCA. A per-version of "La Tosca," by F. C. BURNAND. Music by FLORIAN PASCAL. Messrs. ARTHUR ROBERTS, G. B. Prior, Augustus Wheatman, &c.; Miss Margaret Ayrtoun, Miss Agnes Delaporte, Miss Amy Liddon, Miss Laura Hansen, Miss Hettie Bennett, &c. Preceded at 8.15 by THE OPERA CLOAK. Doors open 7.45. Box-office open daily 10.30 to 5. Telephone No. 3,855. MATINEE EVERY SATURDAY at 2.30. Business Manager, Mr. H. WATKIN.

ALHAMBRA VARIETY THEATRE.

"ASMODEUS," at 9 o'clock, and "OUR ARMY AND NAVY," at 10.50. Signorina Bessone; Mdlles. Saracco, Marie, Thurgate, and Spotti, and Signor De Vicenti. Varieties by BIBB and BOBB, the Sisters Milton, M. Star and Mdlle. Lylia, Arthur Tinsley, Arthur Corney, the Almonti Troupe, Marie Collins, the Eddy's Troupe, Lotto, Lilo, and Otto, and JAMES FAWN. Open 7.45 until 11.30.

EMPIRE THEATRE.

Commence at 8. Two Grand Ballets. At 9.0 THE PARIS EXHIBITION. At 10.30, A DREAM OF WEALTH, by M. KATTI LANNER. Music by M. LEOPOLD WENZEL. Mdlles. Palladino and Bettina de Sortis, Signor Albertieri and Signorina Malvina Cavalazzi. Grand Variety Entertainment. At 10, Miss Amy Roselle will recite Lord TENNYSON'S Poem, THE CHARGE OF THE LIGHT BRIGADE. Exclusive engagement of Mdlle. VANONI TO-NIGHT, at 10.15. No free list.

ROYAL, Holborn.

GRAND HOLIDAY PROGRAMME.—Special engagement of Lockhart's performing Elephants. G. H. Macdermott, the popular actor and vocalist; Lydia Yeamans, queen of song; Bibb and Bobb the funny Continental clowns; the Mannons, in a novel musical absurdity; Yosituro, the wonderful Jap; the Brantfords, American variety artists; Ottaway and Pepper; Abe Daniels, musical clown; Jesse Phillips, Dora Fielding, Arthur Tinsley, Petrot, the marvellous mimic; Arthur Ring; May and Laverne, statuesque dancers; Sam Torr, and others.

EVENINGS at 7.30; SATURDAY MATINEES, 2.30. Prices of admission from 6d. to £2 2s.

THE HOUSE OF JACK-IN-THE-BOX.

THE *Scottish Liberal*, a new twopenny weekly paper, the first number of which appeared yesterday at Edinburgh has achieved the distinction of inducing Lord ROSEBERY to descend into the arena of contemporary journalism. The article on the "Reform of the House of Lords," which he has contributed to the new organ of earnest Liberalism in Scotland, is we believe the first article from his pen which has appeared in the press. It is bright, light, and entertaining, as indeed we all knew beforehand that it was sure to be. But it is not convincing. Nothing that Lord ROSEBERY can say will induce the Scotch Liberals or any Liberals to take the House of Lords seriously, excepting as a serious but always abatable nuisance. We read his sentences about this impregnable citadel manned by a garrison all sworn by an intrepid commander to die sooner than surrender, and we smile inwardly; but when we read his marvellous simile, which tells us that in discussing programmes without taking account of the House of Lords we are like children playing on the slopes of Vesuvius when the seismograph gives warning of a coming eruption, our smile becomes audible. What can have come over this shrewd and acute observer that he can so far have forgotten the actualities of politics as to compare the House of Lords even in the highest flight of hyperbolical metaphor to Vesuvius! It is more like a matchbox full of damp vesuvians.

No, it won't do. Not all our regard for Lord ROSEBERY can induce us to regard the House of Lords with sufficient alarm either to mend it or end it at present. When the time comes, when Lord SALISBURY acts resolutely and the five hundred Tory peers vote desperately, then we may discuss the necessity of throwing them out of the window. But until then not even in Scotland can Lord ROSEBERY induce Liberal Associations to regard the reform of the House of Lords as a matter of urgent political importance. Lord ROSEBERY says that there are only twenty-four Liberal peers—who may perhaps bring up a dozen more maimed, and halt, and blind supporters—and, therefore, that the next Home Rule Bill, even if passed by the House of Commons by a majority of 200 will be rejected by the Peers by a majority of 500. Tell that to the marines! We shall believe in the importance of taking the Lords in hand the day after they venture to throw out any Bill which a House of Commons elected on that issue has sent up with a majority of 200. Our history has rendered us too sceptical for that. We know our peers. The Tory majority is no fire-breathing dragon which no Liberal reform can approach and live. It very much more resembles a Jack-in-the-box, which is always shut down unceremoniously when the nation makes up its mind. A three-year-old who sees a Jack-in-the-box for the first time is often frightened at the alarming apparition of the ferocious little monster, and we can imagine a wicked elder brother in the nursery scaring poor little Tommy out of his wits by descanting upon the fierce temper and insatiable appetite of this hobgoblin springing instantaneously into a horrible activity out of total invisibility. But if in the middle of the description of the portentous possibilities of mischief latent in the apparition the nurse girl summarily claps down the lid upon Jack, and, shutting him up in the box, lays him aside on the shelf, little Tommy can never be scared in that way any more. We are exactly in the position of little Tommy, with this difference, that in the case of our House of Jack-in-the-Box, the nurse girl, in the shape of the popular will, has shut him up not once but a score of times, and not all that Lord ROSEBERY can do or say can frighten us any more.

The great and saving truth that paralyzes all Lord ROSEBERY'S efforts is the fact that the House of Lords can always be jumped upon, and as a matter of fact always is jumped upon, whenever the nation really makes up its mind. No one can really be deceived by Lord SALISBURY'S tall talk. We nave heard that kind of thing too often before to be much impressed by it. But Lord ROSEBERY labours under a further disadvantage. He has a scheme for reforming the House of Lords by which it would always sit for seven years and would be elected by the County Councils and the Municipalities. This may be a bad scheme or a good scheme, but what chance is there of its adoption by the House of Lords? Clearly about as much or as little as there is of their accepting a Bill establishing Home Rule, or a Bill ending them altogether. Lord ROSEBERY'S "mending" is quite as distasteful to the peers as Mr. LABOUCHERE'S "ending," for to most of them the difference between the processes would be purely verbal. As the little pigs when asked with what sauce they preferred to be eaten promptly replied that they preferred very much not to be eaten at all, so the Peers when confronted with the alternative of being extinguished outright or being politely shelved, will reply stoutly that they elect to remain as they are. How is Lord ROSEBERY going to storm that citadel? Is he not very much like a boy on the slopes of Vesuvius heedless of the warning seismograph? Of course he can carry his scheme as we can carry the ending of the peers, by the threat of creating peers with a mandate. But this, says Lord ROSEBERY, would be a revolution. Surely Lord ROSEBERY must long ago have mastered that elementary axiom of the new Liberalism that the Crown must be preserved in order to enable the people to effect revolutions under the cover of the law!

VICTORIA AND ITS FINANCES.

INTERVIEW WITH THE HON. JAMES MUNRO, M.P.

THE Leader of the Opposition in the Parliament of Victoria, the Hon. James Munro, M.P., is a good subject to interview. He does not obtrude his opinions, but tap him on the topic on which you want enlightenment, and you obtain full information and definite opinions. As Mr. Munro has special knowledge of monetary questions, we directed our inquiries mainly to the financial position of Victoria, in anticipation of the early issue of a new loan in the English market. Mr. Munro is the vice-president and one of the founders of the Federal Bank of Australia, and is president of the Real Estate Mortgage and Deposit Bank (Limited). His mission to this country on this occasion is to establish a London branch of the latter institution.

THE DWINDLING SURPLUS.

"Some writers on this side," remarked our representative, "have been criticising with some severity the financial administration of Victoria. Now, I suppose, you have something to say on that subject?"—"Well, I was the first to call the attention of the House to the subject last session. A great deal has been made of the fact that Mr. Gillies, the political head of the Treasury, showed a surplus of £1,700,000, which afterwards dwindled down to half a million; but had he said originally that he had half a million, everybody would have been pleased and thought it a very fine thing. The colony is, however, thoroughly sound financially. There is no doubt about that whatever. On account of the revenue being very large for the last couple of years the Government have undertaken a lot of things that they would not have otherwise entered into. During the current year the Government have agreed to vote £150,000 for netting in the land against rabbits; there is to be a bonus to encourage agriculture of £218,000; railway debentures were paid off in connection with Hobson's Bay Railway to the extent of £276,000. Then the underestimate of the railway expenditure for two years amounted to £405,000. These items, amounting to £1,049,000, came out of the surplus."

"That underestimate in the railway expenditure does not look satisfactory."—"Not at first, but what it means is that the traffic of the railway was very much in excess of what was estimated. The expenditure comes to about 62 per cent. of the income, and both were underestimated."

"Then how does this underestimate come about?"—"The great difficulty with regard to our railway business is this: that our railway commissioners are called upon to do what no railway directors are called upon to do here, that is to estimate their income at the beginning of the year. For these two years they were out in their estimated expenditure by £405,000. Their revenue was also underestimated; but whereas the revenue went into the income of the year, expenses remained outstanding."

THE VALUE OF THE RAILWAYS.

"Taking the railways of the colony as a whole, do they pay their way and are they a sound investment?"—"There is a feature of our railways which the English creditor does not always take into consideration. The money borrowed for railway purposes we expend for railway construction—every shilling of it. In addition to that, whenever railways go through Crown lands, the value of the Crown lands is not considered—it is an unconsidered trifle thrown in. Still further, every shilling derived from the sale of Crown lands is appropriated to railway building. Between six and seven millions sterling has been expended on railways out of the proceeds of land sales, so that you see much more than the borrowed money is sunk in railway property. Last year, speaking from memory, the railways of the colony paid the whole of the working expenses, the whole of the interest on the money borrowed, and contributed £34,000 to the general revenue. That is an immense thing to do when we take it into consideration that in order to bring agricultural produce from the interior down to the coast there was an actual reduction

FOOTBALL NOTES.

The International difficulty is at an end—that is to say, the dispute has gone to arbitration, and in the meantime the matches with Scotland, Ireland, and Wales have been arranged for dates in this month and next. After the universal condemnation evoked by their one-sided statement of the question the International Board found themselves compelled to withdraw from their false position and to accept the English protocol. The board met at Cardiff on Monday morning, the Rugby Union Committee simultaneously sitting at Richmond; and a couple of short telegrams settled the business.

* * * * *

The North and South match was a somewhat one-sided affair. After scoring a lucky try in the first minute the Southerners proceeded to show that at every point of the game they were the better team. Their forwards—as at Manchester in the first match—were distinctly stronger and quite as fast as their opponents, and it was this which decided the issue. It is curious, however, that, with everything in their favour, they never managed to show any good combined dribbling, all the best rushes being executed by single players, quite unsupported by their comrades.

* * * *

Behind the scrummage, Fox, the Somersetshire half-back, and Stoddart, who is quite the lion of the season, worked well together. Stoddart's dropped goal was a very neat bit of work, but the prettiest thing of the match was the last try, which resulted from a smart run and pass by Fox, who in the nick of time placed the ball cleanly into Stoddart's hands, the latter crossing the line after a short, swift, swallow-flight kind of run, which deserved all the applause it received.

* * * * *

After the match the committee proceeded to choose the team for the match with Wales, which takes place on the 15th inst, at Dewsbury. Only three members of the defeated fifteen obtained their caps; but a fourth northerner was also selected, in the person of Wright, of Bradford, who has recently been out of favour with his own county committee. The choice of this player must be taken as implying dissatisfaction with the three half-backs who were tried at Richmond, and rejected. Valentine, of Swinton, seems to have been indebted for his place to the feeling that his county had been rather badly treated in the selection. He may be all that the Lancastrians think him, but he has certainly not "come off" in the trial matches.

As the competition for the Association Challenge Cup draws nearer to its conclusion, the excitement evinced by the followers of the clubs engaged increases almost to fever-heat. This keen interest is not without unpleasant results, for it leads to a great amount of betting and, what is much worse, to frequent insults to umpires and referees. The action of the Football Association in punishing offenders who abuse the officials has done much to limit these offences; but so far no steps have been taken to retard the growth of that bugbear of sport—betting. In many provincial towns, and especially in Lancashire, the regular betting men make books on the cup ties, and hundreds, or even thousands of pounds change hands in the course of one series of matches. With professionalism and betting hand in hand, the outlook of the Association game is not a promising one.

* * * * *

The matches in the last round were not of particular interest, but one of them resulted in a great upset of form. Everton has loudly boasted that before the end of the season it would hold the English, the Lancashire, and Liverpool cups. It has already been dismissed from two of the competitions, the Blackburn Rovers beating them in very decisive fashion in the Lancashire Cup tiè, and Stoke—poor despised Stoke—actually settled their aspirations for the premier trophy. They have now only a chance for their town cup, and even that is not a certainty, for their ancient rivals, Bootle, are playing very well now, having survived their more fancied neighbour in the Association Cup ties. Sheffield Wednesday, on their own peculiarly-shaped ground, disposed of Accrington; and Notts County were very happy in beating their bitter enemies, Aston Villa.

* * * * *

The draw for the third round naturally gives some exciting results. Preston North End is fortunate in again drawing the choice of ground. The Bolton Wanderers are to oppose the Cup holders who are somewhat disorganized at present, although I shall expect them to pull themselves together sufficiently to win this tie. The Blackburn Rovers have to visit Liverpool to play Bootle, and they should have an easy victory. Notts County should be good enough to beat Sheffield Wednesday, although the Sheffielders have, for the third time in succession, the advantage of playing at home. Unless Stoke has suddenly developed playing powers which hitherto they have never exhibited, they can hardly hope to beat the Wolverhampton Wanderers, who appear likely to repeat their last year's performance and get into the final. The whole of these ties are to be played on the 15th inst.

M. B.

made during the year in rates to the extent of £50,000. That was an actual loss to the railways, but of course it was no loss to the colony, as it enabled so much more grain to be shipped. I am perfectly satisfied our railways are on a thoroughly sound basis and the creditors amply secured."

THE NEW LOANS.

"What of the new loans that are in contemplation?"—"There is a balance of £1,600,000 of old loans unissued, and new loans to the extent of £4,000,000 have been authorized, but when they will be floated I don't know."

"How is the money to be spent?"—"Chiefly on railways, and partly for irrigation purposes."

"The expenditure on irrigation works has been specially criticised."—"I am aware of that, but the *Statist* clearly misunderstands the situation. The money lent for irrigation purposes becomes a charge upon the freehold lands of the parties who use the water, so that there is ample security. Take the case of the Yan Yean water supply for the City of Melbourne. That cost a little over three millions sterling; but it not only pays working expenses and interest, but has returned nearly the whole of the original outlay to the revenue. It is a most profitable scheme, and the water given to farmers for irrigation purposes is very much in the same position. Some people estimate that the land is thereby increased in value threefold. No doubt there will be some delay in getting revenue from this expenditure, but I am quite clear that the whole is safe. There is nothing we are stronger upon in the Assembly than that provision should be made for the eventual return of every shilling lent to farmers or irrigation Trusts, with a fair amount of interest."

"Is any of the projected loans to go to clear off liabilities already incurred?"—"No, certainly not; but you may have got that idea from the fact that the money is intended for the completion of railway and irrigation works already authorized."

A VALUABLE ESTATE AS SECURITY.

"You will admit that the total indebtedness of the colony is very large."—"A good deal has been said about our borrowing to a large extent, and after this loan is floated we shall owe about forty-four millions, while we have only a population of a little over a million. If population were the only question there would be some ground for the criticism, but we have a most valuable territory which does not pay a shilling to the State in the way of taxation, except the special tax imposed a few years ago to prevent the aggregation of large estates, which brings in £150,000 a year. If any man has land worth less than £2,500 in its natural state it is exempt from taxation. That is regarded as the maximum amount a man can use for his own personal purposes. All above that amount is liable to taxation in this way. The land is divided into four classes. In the first class is all land valued in its original state at £4 per acre; in the second, land valued at £3; in the third, land valued at £2; and in the fourth, land valued at £1 per acre. Upon the first we have a special tax of 1*s.* per acre, on the second 9*d.*, on the third 6*d.*, and on the fourth 3*d.* This special tax was the outcome of what was known originally as the 'bursting-up policy' as it was meant to prevent the aggregation of large estates, as I have said. We have no tax on property coming into the public revenue, except this land tax, so that we have an immense field before us for taxation. We are not like a country which has exhausted its sources of revenue. Suppose the railways should fail to bring in sufficient money to pay interest—which they won't do—we have the whole territory enriched by the railways to tax in order to bring in a revenue."

"How do you raise your revenue?"—"Our revenue is about eight millions. Over three millions of that comes from the railways, so much from the post and telegraph offices, nearly three millions from Customs duties, and the balance from rents of Crown lands and taxes on the transfer of property, &c."

MORE IMPORTS THAN EXPORTS.

"How is trade in the colony?"—"Trade is very good at the present time. One thing has been a puzzle to us—that is the enormous increase of imports. Of course that is an indication of the greater wealth of the colony; but still we have been troubled to ascertain how it is that our imports so far exceed our exports. In the year 1888-9 our imports exceeded our exports by 10 millions, one being 14 millions and the other 24. That great divergence was, no doubt, largely caused by the Exhibition, but the normal difference is considerable, and I have been trying to discover how we make it up. There is one source that accounts for a good deal of the difference. We in Victoria invest very largely in sheep and cattle stations in New South Wales and Queensland, and I have arrived at the conclusion that many millions sterling are invested in this way by Victorian capitalists. The produce from that investment appears as exports from New South Wales and Queensland, although the profit comes to Victoria. That does not altogether account for the difference, but it helps largely to balance the account.',

AN AUSTRALIAN DOMINION.

"You are all for Protection in Victoria?"—"Yes, I may say the Free Trade party has died out. The present Premier was considered to be the leader of the Free Traders, but during the last session of Parliament he has coalesced with the Protectionists, and we have adjusted several anomalies and increased the tariff considerably in some cases. We are quite certain that the Protectionist policy is the proper policy for us, but we are prepared to go in for an Australian Dominion, and permit Free Trade between the various portions of the Dominion. A federation conference will be held this week in Melbourne, at which there will be representatives from all the colonies. Sir William Robinson expressed some doubt in the interview in the *Pall Mall Gazette* as to Victoria being sound on federation, but I have no doubt that we are thoroughly in favour of federation. It would be of immense advantage to us. We have trained and educated our people to be manufacturers of various articles not produced in the other colonies, and federation would open a large market to us which is at present closed. With the exception of New South Wales all the colonies are protective."

"Then what is your scheme?"—"We are going in for a Dominion Parliament with a Governor-General. We would give considerable powers to this Parliament. There are many difficulties to overcome, but my idea is that we should hand over to this Dominion Parliament the whole question of Customs duties, the whole management of the railways, the whole dealings with lands, the postal and telegraph arrangements, and the defences. We know, from the feeling in Australia generally on the question of Protection, that we should have a Protectionist dominion with Free Trade within its borders."

THE RECENT LAND BOOM.

"Was your recent land boom not attended with disastrous results?"—"Some amount of mischief was done by it because people were led into speculation who could not meet their engagements, but the effect on the community as a whole has not been so serious as outsiders imagine. It has revealed the weak points of men who were not strong, but I don't know a single man who was in a good sound commercial position who has been seriously affected by it. Properties in the country are not saleable at anything like the boom prices, but in Melbourne and its suburbs there has been no reduction in value."

SATISFIED WITH THE EIGHT HOURS DAY.

"Have Protection and the eight hours movement gone together?"—"The eight hours movement began long before there was any Protection, and it has steadily gone on without any legislation, but simply by the action of the people themselves. It has become now in almost all trades the established custom, and no one seems to dispute it. Protection may have facilitated the eight hours day, but there was no connection between the two movements."

"Does the system work satisfactorily?"—"Undoubtedly. We get better work and even more work. I have been among working people both at home and in Victoria, and I am satisfied more work is done in the colony than at home in the working day."

THE PROGRESS OF PROHIBITION.

"You are specially interested in Prohibition. How is that movement progressing in Victoria?"—"We have not gone in at present for what is known as Prohibition. We have adopted a system of local option, which will gradually reduce the number of public-houses. No new licences can be granted in any part of Victoria, except there is a vote of the inhabitants in its favour. In 1885 the law was passed fixing what was called the statutory number of public-houses in a district. In round numbers four public-houses are allowed for every thousand inhabitants. Where the number of existing houses exceeds the statutory limit a vote may be taken to reduce it. In my own constituency of Geelong we took a vote and reduced the number by 17. When a vote is taken and the decision arrived at that a certain number of houses are to be closed, we go to arbitration to fix the compensation for the houses closed. This compensation does not come out of the revenue of the colony, but out of a trust fund formed of the licence fees of public-houses and fines and penalties imposed upon the publicans. If that sum is not sufficient to meet the demand for compensation we are authorized to impose new duties upon intoxicating drinks to make up any deficiency, so that the trade has itself to pay for all the compensation. At the beginning we had many difficulties to contend with, and we had to amend the law before we got it to work smoothly. In the Legislative Assembly, out of ninety-five members, at least sixty are in favour of local option, and we are working up public opinion so that we may obtain power to close all the public-houses in any district should the inhabitants so decide. The Victorian Alliance, of which I am president, is the only real live political body in the colony at the present time."

Bord's Pianos.—25 per cent. discount for cash or 15s. per month (second-hand, 10s. 6d. per month on the three years' system. Illustrated Lists free of CHAS. STILES and CO., 42, SOUTHAMPTON ROW, HOLBORN, W.C. Pianos exchanged.

OCCASIONAL NOTES.

The comments of most of our contemporaries on the German Emperor's new departure are decidedly not diplomatic. "Very good as far as it goes," they say, "but it will infallibly involve Free Trade; and as the German Government is Protectionist, had it not better drop the thing at once?" If the paper which took this line were Protectionist, we could understand it; but from Free Traders it is the very acme of unwisdom. When you have a promising convert ready to accept a minor premiss, you do not—if you have his conversion at heart—begin gibing at him and scaring him off by brandishing the major conclusion before his eyes. Yet this is what the *Times* and *Standard* and *Daily News* are doing when they try to damp the Emperor's enthusiasm by showing him that he is really committing himself to Free Trade.

The *Times*, in particular, brings down the Free Trade argument in very sledge-hammer fashion. It says:—

> Are either the workmen or the employers of the Continental States prepared to accept this condition? If they are, we are on the verge, which is scarcely conceivable, of a vast industrial revolution. If they are not, what can be the use of convening an international congress to debate issues which depend for their determination on matters absolutely excluded from the sphere of practical discussion?

What we all hope as Free Traders is that "the vast industrial revolution" will come; but the way to bring that about is to get the heretics to see the error of their ways by degrees—not to scare them away the moment they approach "the verge." And as a matter of fact, if the *Standard's* correspondent be well informed, the consummation we desire is well in sight:—

> As to the question of Free Trade, the negotiations that will soon become necessary for the conclusion of new commercial treaties will, perhaps, show the possibility of certain changes being made in German commercial policy for the future.

This is a very important announcement, and the movement of opinion in Germany which it embodies deserves more encouraging treatment than our pragmatical contemporaries are according to it.

Disingenuous is the mildest term that can be applied to Cardinal Rampolla's explanation of the letter which he wrote to M. Henri Desportes, the author of the book accusing the Jews of using the blood of Christian children in the performance of their rites, saying that "the Pope greatly approves of his work on the horrible custom of the Rabbinical Jews." Cardinal Rampolla's explanation is—

> That the Pope directed the usual letter, which acknowledges the receipt of books without any commendation on them, to be sent to the author of whose book you complain. It was the formal letter sent to every one before the book is examined, and often before it is seen.

Very well. Then if the Pope only directed the usual letter to be sent which acknowledges the receipt of books without any commendation, who is responsible for the despatch of the unusual letter which contained an emphatic commendation of the book in question?

As a matter of fact, the story of the blood sacrifice is regarded at Rome as anything but incredible or extraordinary. Rightly or wrongly, the Catholics believe that the Jews are their deadly enemies. The Jew and the Freemason are the two great foes of the Church. It is they who have destroyed the temporal power, and a race that could dethrone the successor of Peter is doing nothing but what might be expected from such impious miscreants if it occasionally cuts the throat of a Christian infant in the performance of its ceremonial. Such at least seems to be the logic of many at Rome, and in this respect the Russians absolutely agree with them. We may deplore it as much as we please, but the fact remains. The most intelligent Russian Slavophil and Catholic priests, in countries as advanced as the Dominion of Canada, regard "the horrible custom of the Rabbinical Jews" as being as firmly established as an ascertained and demonstrable fact—as, say, the existence of the influenza or of the dock strike.

The gift which an anonymous donor presented to Mrs. Lawrence in the Southwark police-court for having given food, clothing, and shelter to two starving orphan boys was one of those horses which it is decidedly better that people should not look in the mouth. The case was as follows:—Mrs. Lawrence, coffee-stall keeper, wife of a lame ex-policeman and mother of six children, had "for the love of their dead mother" taken two starving urchins into her home and kept them as long as the proceeds of the coffee-stall sufficed, if not to fill, at least to satisfy to some extent, all the hungry mouths dependent on the earnings of the good woman. But times grew hard, the two urchins had to go a-begging, and were duly captured by the valiant police. In the police-court the whole story came out, and one well-to-do gentleman, "who did not wish his name to be known," was so touched by Mrs. Lawrence's "kindness to the two motherless waifs" that he caused the magistrate to present her with a dinner-service. What a pity it was, to be sure, the giver did not remember that even a golden dinner service is of little use in an empty larder, and that it was merely on account of Mrs. Lawrence's extreme poverty the two orphans were "found begging."

M. Lemoinne has spoken some plain truths to his countrymen who are working themselves up into a fool's paradise about the Russian alliance. He says:—

> We foolishly take the Northern visitors who flock to the Mediterranean every winter, under the combined attractions of sunshine and the *roulette*, to represent the Tzar and the Russian people; and there is no man to tell us that behind these idlers and cosmopolitan tourists there are millions of men far away in the North who know nothing of this superficial agitation, who are ignorant of our very existence and who acknowledge but one master on earth, whose will to them is that of God, and whom they are prepared to obey at the sacrifice of their life. We forget in our levity that we have no means of knowing the views of the solitary man who wields such crushing power, or the workings of his mind.

M. Lemoinne is wrong in saying that "we have no means of knowing the views of that solitary man." The Tzar has expressed them frankly enough, and he never speaks without sincerity. If M. Lemoinne does not know what these views are it is his own fault for not reading the *Pall Mall Gazette*,

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This being the case, we may once more repeat what "the views of that solitary man" really are on the subject on which M. Lemoinne is writing. So far from the Tzar favouring the French alliance in the sense desired by the advocates of the Revanche, there is nothing from which he recoils with such genuine horror. He is for peace. He would be much more disposed to support Germany if threatened with attack by France than to encourage France in making war upon Germany. He is for peace and the *status quo*. He is the enemy of all who would make war and alter the map of Europe. We are not speaking without book in this matter; and we tell the French dreamers who think that Russia is on the verge of making an alliance with them against Germany that they never were more mistaken in their lives. Only one contingency could bring Russia into the field as an ally of France, and that would be if Germany were wantonly to levy war against France. But the policeman of Europe would then interfere, not from love of France or from hatred of Germany, but solely from love of peace, and he would intervene quite as promptly against France if the Republic were the author of the war.

"HOW I MET STANLEY."

AN INTERVIEW WITH MR. STEVENS, OF THE "NEW YORK WORLD."

IT is now a little near a year ago that the *New York World* sent out T. A. Stevens, the well-known American journalist, to try and find out what had become of Stanley, who was then supposed to have been hopelessly lost, or taken prisoner by the Mahdi. When passing through London on his way to Africa this time last year a representative of the *Pall Mall Gazette* called on him to ascertain his views about the Stanley Expedition generally, and his coming adventures in particular. Now that he is on his way back, having successfully accomplished his object—that is, to be the first white man to meet Stanley and Emin Pasha, come out of the African bush—we called to hear the account of where and how he met those whom he had gone to seek.

"You must have heard of Stanley's safety very soon after your arrival in Africa?"—"Yes, almost immediately. I was already started on a little exploring expedition of my own up the country in Masailand when I first received the news that the great explorer was safe after all, and himself making his way down towards us. Accordingly I came back to Zanzibar to learn that he had actually been sighted."

"Then I suppose there was a great rush made to meet him?"—"Well, owing to the war waging between the Germans and the Arabs, the state of the country was extremely unsettled, and the authorities, who were of course all Germans, entirely refused to allow anybody on any pretext whatsoever, to leave the place. I was in despair, and tried in vain to persuade Major Weissmann, the officer in command, to allow me to start with a few natives at my own risk and peril. At last, seeing that there was nothing else to be done, I bought a native dhow, and so managed to slip away unnoticed and to cross the 26 miles of sea between ourselves and Bagamoyo, where a friendly Hindi trader hid me in his house till I was ready to start."

"Then did you go alone, Mr. Stevens?"—"Not so. I managed to get five stout young negroes to compose my party, right under the noses of the German garrison, who had of course been warned that I had escaped by Major Weissmann. But though I have since heard that they were looking out for me, we managed to creep away and make for the interior. I shall never forget that first day's march. We tramped thirty miles in the heat of the day without stopping for one rest. The thought of the Germans behind, and Stanley in front drove us on."

"And you met with your reward?"—"Yes, in the shape of a German reconnoitring expedition at the end of our day's march. But for the unpleasant predicament in which I found myself, I should have much enjoyed the scene which followed. The worthy officer in command was placed, I soon discovered, on the horns of a dilemma. After taking my little party prisoners he did not know what to do with them. He could not spare the men to take us back to Bagamoyo; on the other hand, he was determined not to take me along with him to meet Stanley and Emin, to whom I believe he was carrying supplies and messages from Berlin. However, after stopping a whole day to consider the matter, he reluctantly made up his mind to take me along with him."

"The relations between you must have been somewhat strained."—"They were, but still he was not half a bad fellow really, and it only lasted four days, for at the end of that time scouts brought in the news that we were bearing straight upon Stanley's camp, and would be there in an hour. In the excitement that ensued I managed to escape, and plunging into the brush made my way for the spot indicated by the scouts. Sure enough, I came upon it almost immediately. There, in a long, narrow valley, lay the camp, recalling a big, straggling village, with the tents dotted all over the place.

"What sort of tents, Mr. Stevens?"—"Well, they had gone through a great deal of hard work, you see, and had become a dirty green through wear, tear, and exposure. Mr. Stanley and Emin Pasha's tents were somewhat larger and smarter than those of their respective followers, and sported gay Egyptian flags. Stanley's habitation was empty, but I found him a little way off, sitting smoking and chatting with some of his officers under a Palaver-shed rudely put together with a few sticks and branches.

"And what did he look like?"—"Well, to begin with, he was clothed in a suit evidently cut out of an old tent cover, grassy in hue, and picturesquely discoloured; a battered cap, of the kind which recalls the peaked Russian military cap, was on his head, and his boots—well, his boots were the best part of the costume; I believe that they had come out of the stores which had been left more than two years ago at the south end of Lake Victoria, and had come in handy for the expedition. He looked much better than I had expected to find him."

"Is it true that his hair has turned white?"—"Well, it is and it isn't. Stanley wears his hair very low in the nape: the hair growing on the top and sides of the head has gone white, but a kind of black fringe remains in the neck."

"And what happened after you found him under the Palaver?"—"I talked to him half an hour of solid home news, he asking questions and I answering as rapidly as a traction engine. Then I saw Emin; and then" (regretfully) "the German expedition arrived."

"What is Emin like?"—"Small and slight, with whiskers and spectacles. He strongly recalls in personal appearance both Jay Gould and Sir Edwin Arnold, especially when the latter appears in a skull cap. He is about Stanley's own age, but looks younger."

"I suppose that after that your tribulations were over, and you all returned in triumph together?"—"Indeed, no. I had some nice long talks with Stanley whilst we were actually on the way, but when we met Major Weissmann, who had come forward to receive Emin and his deliverer in a little fort situated in the Kingarri River, my good times came to an end. Not only did he not invite me to the banquet held in honour of the wanderers to which every European in the place without exception had been bidden, but he hunted up the Hindi trader who had given me shelter, and issued a strict prohibition to every inhabitant of Bagamoyo to lodge or feed me. Indeed, I do not know what I should have done had it not been that an English man-of-war, H.M.S. *Turquoise*, was anchored in the bay, and that her commander, Captain Brackenbury, had the courtesy to take me on board, and finally ship me back again to Zanzibar."

"Were you still at Bagamoyo when Emin Pasha's accident took place?"—"It occurred the very evening that I went into the *Turquoise*. I may tell you, by-the-by, that I was the only man who interviewed Emin before his accident. I am glad to hear that he is getting on all right, and will soon be as fit as ever for interviews and interviewers."

*MR. HALL CAINE'S NEW NOVEL.**

SINCE Mr. Robert Buchanan seems to be irrecoverably engulphed in the theatrical quagmire, Mr. Hall Caine may be regarded as the sole surviving champion of the Eternal Melodramatic in fiction. Situation is the beginning and end of his art—moving, startling, thrilling, awe-inspiring Situation, presented with every device of emphasis and antithesis, limelight and slow music. It would be unjust to complain of the lavish use of coincidence by which Mr. Caine brings about his situations. The artist has every right to create his own universe, and Mr. Caine's imaginative universe is stage-managed by Fate. He represents the world as governed by a sort of "magnified and non-natural" Victor Hugo, a conscious and ingenious Dramaturge, untiringly working out his picturesque combinations and permutations on the scene of life. Whether this can be accepted as a cheerful view of man's destiny, we shall not inquire. Old Gloster did not think so when he said :—

> As flies to wanton boys are we to the gods:
> They kill us for their sport

—but it may be a very just view for all that. In any case, there is comfort for the mass of mankind. Those of us who are wise enough not to live among romantic scenery, and fortunate enough to be of average stature, of somewhat less than resplendent physical beauty, and of "fair to middling" moral character, have every chance of pulling through life in the humble but comparatively enviable capacity of "supers," subject to the ordinary bye-laws of the theatre, and exempt from the volcanic passions and titanic woes of the luckless protagonists.

"The Bondman" (as the publisher is good enough to assure us) "is undoubtedly Mr. Hall Caine's masterpiece thus far." It is the product of a strenuous and sustained imaginative effort, far beyond the power of an every-day story-teller. It is a highly successful realization of the author's artistic ideal, which is not an ignoble one. To condemn Mr. Caine for choosing to disport himself in a backwater, instead of swimming with the stream of literary tendency, would be no less unjust than unphilosophical. Besides, he would be indeed a slave to critical (or uncritical) prepossessions who should find himself quite unimpressed by the largeness of Mr. Caine's conceptions and the energy of his somewhat too self-conscious style. Many of his scenes are at once vivid and weird, some are genuinely dramatic. There are points where he attains to something like spiritual tragedy, only to sink back again, presently, into heroic melodrama. The chief artistic fault of his manner (apart from prolixity, of which he cannot be acquitted) lies in his inability to conceal the process of invention and construction. Nothing occurs with any semblance of spontaneity. The incidents are like the stones of Temple Bar, numbered for fitting together ; and sometimes the author makes a slip and turns the numbered side outwards. We seem able to trace the growth of the story, phase by phase, from the first germ in the author's note-book. This germ we take to have been somewhat as follows :—"A vendetta, in part hereditary, in part personal, between two half-brothers, Valentine and Orson. Each ignorant of the other's identity, they shall be brought face to face under circumstances of extreme horror. Nay more, they shall be chained together, and shall thus learn to love each other. Orson, the more injured and more vengeful, shall save Valentine from death, by means of unheard-of exertions and sufferings ; shall recognize his kinsman-foe and renounce his vengeance ; and shall finally (like Sidney Carton) lay down his life for him and for the woman they both love." To say that the whole story springs from and returns to this situation, is to say nothing, for that is necessarily the process of story-building ; but it is not necessary that we should be kept for ever on the alert for the "one far-off divine event To which the whole construction moves." Mr. Caine is himself so vastly impressed by its sublimity that when we come to it—well, we are perhaps a trifle disappointed. "This is the strange and wondrous chance," he cries, "that has now to be recorded, and only to think of it, whether as accident or God's ordinance, makes the blood to tingle in every vein." The present writer has thought of it assiduously, in both the lights above suggested, and has experienced no physiological sensation whatever. Before his blood can be made to tingle by the most appalling situation ever invented, he must be brought to sympathize warmly with the persons concerned in it, and to consider them (for the moment at any rate) as human beings. Now Jason (says Mr. Caine, who ought to know) possessed "the biggest heart for good or ill that ever beat in the breast of man ;' but before considering its dimensions, we want to be convinced that it ever did beat in the breast of man at all ; and on this point Mr. Caine leaves us unsatisfied. Michael, though not quite so colossal as Jason, is scarcely more human ; Greeba is *the* woman, rather than *a* woman ; and Adam Fairbrother and Jorgen Jorgensen are merely Ormuzd and Ahriman in knee-breeches—incarnate principles of good and evil. That is perhaps the reason why, in spite of our hearty recognition of the imaginative effort it embodies, "The Bondman" leaves us cold. Like "The Megatheria" of Mr. Poseidon Hicks, it is "a magnificent contribution to our pre-Adamite literature."

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* "The Bondman : a new Saga." By Hall Caine. (London : William Heinemann. 1890.)

MR. DOBSON'S "PRIOR."

"Selected Poems of Matthew Prior." With an Introduction and Notes by Austin Dobson. (Kegan Paul, Trench, and Co.) This is a volume of the "Parchment Library," and (apart from "Solomon," which is not worth reading) contains all Prior's poems which can now be printed. Mr. Dobson, who prefixes a critical memoir, has been fortunate enough to secure a manuscript account of Prior's boyhood, written by his friend and schoolfellow, Sir James Montague. We now learn, for the first time, that it was at the Rhenish Wine House in Westminster, and not at the Rummer Tavern near Charing-cross, that Lord Dorset found young Prior, seated in the bar reading Horace. The Montagues lived near at hand, and here very probably commenced that friendship with Charles Montague (afterwards Lord Halifax) which in a few years bore fruit in the "Country Mouse and the City Mouse," a spirited burlesque of Dryden's "Hind and Panther." It has always been understood that Lord Dorset sent Prior to Cambridge. Mr. Dobson shows us, on the authority of the Montague MS., that he did nothing of the sort ; but that, on the contrary, Prior went to St. John's College in direct opposition to his patron's wish. These are small matters, no doubt ; but in literary biography a great deal often hinges upon a trifle, and no fact, however unimportant it may seem, ought ever to be disregarded. Mr. Dobson is well known to be exceedingly painstaking ; though it must be said that his virtue in this respect often proves its sole reward. Prior's life offers few attractions to the biographer. It was divided between diplomacy and the writing of verses. Under William III. he acted as secretary to several embassies, and was for a short time Under-Secretary of State He entered Parliament in 1701, and turned from a strong Whig to a violent Tory. Towards the close of Queen Anne's reign he was employed in important negotiations, but the death of the Queen and the consequent downfall of Bolingbroke brought his diplomatic career to an end. There is no love interest in Prior's life, as there is in connection with the lives of his contemporaries, Swift, Steele, and Pope. He had his Chloe it is true (real as well as poetical) ; but the real one was—if we may believe Pope—no more than "a little alehouse keeper's wife," and, according to the same authority, Prior "was not a right good man." Nevertheless, Mr. Dobson has succeeded in making the story of his life interesting ; and the many notes with which he has enriched the volume will prove of great value to literary students.

TO-DAY'S NEW BOOKS.

BARROW, Sir JOHN CROKER, Bart. "Mary of Nazareth : a Legendary Poem." (Burns and Oates.)
[The third and concluding part. Cloth. Pp. 50. Price 2*s.*]

DILKE, The Right Hon. Sir CHARLES, "Problems of Greater Britain." (Macmillan and Co.)
[Two volumes. Pp. 1214. Maps.]

City Notes.

RAILWAY RIVALRY IN SCOTLAND.

The old rivalry between the two leading railway lines across the Border has broken out afresh, and we are promised a stiff fight both in the country and in Parliament. The question is not merely a Scotch one, as London and the cities and towns of England have as great an interest in the freedom of the fords over the Solway and the Tweed as Scotland has. The North British is looking for considerable advantage to accrue from the opening of the Forth Bridge, but they also aim at improving their position by the absorption of the Glasgow and South Western line, which would give them the key of three of the routes between the two countries—namely, the East Coast, the Waverley, and the South Western. To this there is a decided objection on the part of the Glasgow traders, and opposition may be also expected from English towns. The community in the West of Scotland would much prefer to be served by three independent lines than two. The Caledonian Company also favour the *status quo*, but they say that if it is to be absorbed they should have equal rights with the North British over the Glasgow and South Western. In another quarter the rivalry is very keen. Last year the North British, which touches the Clyde at Helensburgh, put a number of new fast boats on the river ; and the Caledonian, which has now outlets at Greenock, Gourock, and Wemyss Bay, will put new boats on next season, so that tourists from the south as well as the local population should be well served. The battle is also being fought in Edinburgh. The Caledonian want to tunnel the famous Princes-street in order to get into the heart of the city. The North British does not at all relish this proposal, and its friends are shrieking at the suggested Vandalism. Under proper conditions it should be possible to prevent the amenity of the City being injured, and the travelling public would regard the extension as a boon. The battle at present waxes strong in the press, and by-and-by it will be continued at Westminster.

THE READING DIVIDEND QUESTION.

On the much-debated Reading dividend question Mr. John Douglas makes one or two very trenchant remarks. He says :—"People here, including the influential press, denounce the withholding of dividends for 1889 from the First Income Bonds as a great wrong ; they charge it to bad American book-keeping, and to most corrupt and wicked conduct imputed to Mr. Corbin, the president, who a little while ago was held up by them all as a sort of model. They actually object to repairs of the railway (for damage done by a great flood) being charged against the year's income. They say these should be charged to capital, and money borrowed to pay for them. If any English railway board attempted to pay such repairs by a loan, every financial editor would be down on them at once. As to the wisdom or propriety of Mr. Corbin's having recently led some people to expect payment, we know nothing of it ; so far as we have observed he did not tell the public so, and if private friends trusted to private tips both they and he should suffer. Information should be public."

THE ELECTRIC LIGHTING OF LONDON.

Mr. J. E. H. Gordon, engineer to the Metropolitan Electric Supply Company, who has designed and carried out the whole of their central stations in the Marylebone, Strand, and Holborn districts, has been appointed consulting engineer to the Westminster Electric Supply Corporation, who have a district as large as the Metropolitan, and who are about to erect four central stations.

Up to April 1 last, the Civil List of the King of Prussia (he receives none as Emperor) amounted to £610,965 per annum. From that date it was raised to £785,965 a year. This is obtained as follows :—Receipts from crown lands and forests, £385,965 ; voted by the Prussian Parliament, £400,000—Total, £785,965.

The Ladies' Corner.

HAVE THE ENGLISH BIG FEET?

It was delightfully funny (writes a correspondent) Mdme. Goldschmidt's saying to your representative that short skirts would "enable English women to get rid of the idea in the minds of foreigners that the English have big feet"! This speech reminds me of the reason Bismarck alleged for refusing to further the change from German to Latin letters in the printing of German books. He said Latin letters would be more harmful to the eyesight! *More harmful* than the crabbed characters in vogue in the Fatherland! Sublime assurance! Max O'Rell somewhere declares that every British human foot is twelve good inches long. The English traveller in France comments on the smallness of the local foot. What means this—read backwards—but that British feet are big? Some South Americans had a house in a fashionable London street, and the ladies of the family said it was pleasure enough for them to sit at the lower windows and watch "the enormous English feet" pass by! The feet of the father of the family were perhaps eight inches long. The points of his boots only just showed beyond the hem of his trousers. Let any doubter look at upper-class Russian feet, and then say are English feet abnormally big, or not. Why not fairly face the fact? English feet are exceedingly long. As a rule, they are low in the instep. If they have good insteps, ten to one their owner has Norman blood in his veins. But big, flat feet only become supremely ugly when deformed by squeezing. English feet, if left alone, are very useful, though not ornamental. Is not "mere hoofiness" Carlyle's expression? It very well describes the large foot cramped into a French boot several sizes too small! When the self-inflicted "torture of the boot" has gone on for a while, and the toes are twisted inwards and outwards, the great joints are enlarged, and a ruggedness of outline is produced which might be picturesque in another place, but is much the reverse of picturesque in a human foot! In one of his published lectures Mr. Treves tells this anecdote : "A week ago, I had to amputate a toe from the foot of a young girl, who came to my out-patient rooms at the London Hospital, completely lamed. . . . She was pleased at the prospect of the operation, because it would allow her to wear a still smaller shoe." Ladies who *must* wear certain fashionable boots should, as a preliminary measure, have the three middle toes amputated. The operation would add to their comfort, and would render their gait not one whit more awkward than it is at present. Mdme. Goldschmidt would be wiser in the long run if she told her English customers to clip off the muddy ends of their skirts in spite of their fearful pedal extremities. Gaiters out-of-doors, and Early English rosettes indoors, hide multitudes of defects ; and probably other devices can be invented.

ENGLISH BREAKFASTS.

It must be confessed (writes a lady correspondent) that the attack on the English breakfast published in your paper the other day is only too well merited. Our breakfasts, as a rule, are without doubt monotonous. And yet there is no need why this should be so if housewives would just bestir themselves a little and think beforehand. There are many delightful breakfast dishes which can be cooked in even less time than the universal dish of eggs and bacon, if the preliminary part of the business is performed the night previous. For instance, take fish and meat cakes, croquettes, rissoles, potato pats, savoury croutons, rice à l'Indienne, scalloped meats, meats potted and moulded, &c. All these dishes, and many more beside, can be entirely prepared at night—when there is always a bit of spare time—except the frying, which is a very simple process, only requiring from six to ten minutes. As regards the question of having fruits and salads served at breakfast-time, all I can say is that the sooner that custom comes into fashion the better. For the last sixteen years—ever since I became the proud mistress of a household—a well-made vegetable salad has graced our breakfast-table twice or thrice a week all the year round, and that in conjunction with other dishes forms a most wholesome and attractive meal, as salads bear varying to almost any extent. This year, when the season comes round, I mean to try and introduce fruits as freely. As for oatmeal porridge, that has a place on our breakfast-table all the winter through, and it is a dish—when properly prepared—to be highly recommended.

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BURNS'S ADDRESS TO THE LIBERAL UNIONISTS.

A speaker at Possilpark in support of Sir Charles Tennant's candidature said, regarding the Unionists, said that he was inclined to use the words of Burns altered :—

God knows I'm not the thing I would be,
Nor am I e'en the thing I could be;
But this I say, I rather would be
A Tory clean
Than under Unionist colours hid be,
Just for a screen.

THE JAPANESE NATIONAL ANTHEM.

At the monthly dinner of the Vagabond's Club last evening Mr. Jusiro Kiuchi, assistant counsellor of the Japanese Legislative Bureau of the Cabinet, recited the National Anthem of his native land to the following effect: "O that the reign of our Emperor might continue for thousands and thousands of years—until oyster-shells become rocks!"

A MAHOMMEDAN CRUSADE AGAINST THE STAGE.

In consequence of the Prophet Mahomet having been recently impersonated in a play performed in Paris, the Mahommedans of Bombay and Poona have issued an edict against the drama generally, all of that persuasion being strictly enjoined to keep away from dramatic performances. For the first offence a fine of 5r. will be inflicted, for the second 10r., and on the commission of the third the offender will be expelled from the *jamat*, and denied the Mahommedan rites of burial.

BRITISH ARCHÆOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.

At the last council meeting of this society, Mr. Wright, F.S.A., in the chair, the Earl of Carnarvon was unanimously elected president of the forty-seventh annual congress, to be held at Oxford in July next. The Earl of Carnarvon was president of the congress held at Newbury in 1850. Among those present on that occasion were Dr. Samuel Wilberforce, then Bishop of Oxford, Charles Kingsley, J. R. Planché, George Godwin, F.R.S., Thomas Wright, T. J. Pettigrew, F.R.S., and James D. Halliwell.

THE LATEST PARSEE BENEFACTOR.

The gift of one lakh, or in other words 100,000 rupees, towards the founding of a leper hospital at Bombay by the Honourable Sir Dinshaw Manockjee Petit is the latest of those benefactions which have made the Parsee community of Western India famous throughout the world. During the last twenty-five years Sir Dinshaw has dispensed large sums in public and private charity, principally the latter, and the amount of these benefactions is stated on reliable authority to exceed £200,000. One of the most notable of his latest gifts was to present the freehold of the land on which the Victoria Jubilee Technical Institute has been erected.

PARISH SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR A PORTUGESE NAVY.

The Lisbon Municipal Council has contributed 100 contos of reis to the national fund, the proceeds of which are to be applied to naval defence. Monsignor Neto, Archbishop of Lisbon, has called a meeting of the clergy to open subscriptions in every parish with the same object. Senhor Barjona Freitas, the new Minister to Great Britain, left last evening for London to enter upon his official duties.—*Reuter.*

Mr. W. S. Gilbert, visited Calcutta last week, and has gone on to Darjeeling.

Mr. Ismay, of the White Star Line, will, it is believed, succeed Sir Richard Moon as chairman of the London and North Western Railway.

The Rev. William Elmslie, of Liverpool, the father of the late Professor Elmslie, is seriously ill.

It is reported that Mr. Hamish MacCunn has promised to set the 8th Psalm to music for the opening ceremony at the Edinburgh International Exhibition, 1890.

FOURTH EDITION.

THE TERRIBLE MINE EXPLOSION.

A HEAVY DEATH ROLL.

ONE HUNDRED BODIES RECOVERED,

AGONIZING SCENES.

Monmouthshire was yesterday morning the scene of one of the most appalling colliery catastrophes known in the history of the South Wales coal-fields. The Llanerch Steam Coal Colliery is about 400 feet deep. The shaft was driven down the top of a high elevation, facing the Pontnewynydd district The owners are Messrs. Partridge, Jones, and Co.

THE SCENE AT THE PIT MOUTH.

Two hundred and thirty pit hands, belonging to the day-shift, descended as usual yesterday morning. The fireman had, it is said, previously inspected the workings, and reported at eight o'clock that all was right and safe. At ten minutes to nine, however, a terrible report was heard. From all directions a rush was made to the pit top. Grief-stricken women and children whose relatives had not left their home a couple of hours, could be seen making their way up the mountain side in a most agonized state. So severe had the shock of the explosion been, that the shaft timber had been displaced, and tumbling headlong down the shaft had dammed it up, rendering immediate descent to the pit bottom utterly impracticable. One poor woman, whose husband was ill in bed, had three of her lads in the pit, and her moans were pitiful. Exploring parties were speedily formed under the direction of Mr. Morgan, the manager, and Mr. Edward Jones, J.P., one of the colliery proprietors, and by sustained, intrepid effort the débris in the shaft was partly cleared. Means of communication with the region of the explosion had meanwhile been obtained from the other shaft. Ambulances from adjoining collieries had already been got ready, and several doctors were in attendance. The explorers had to contend with huge obstacles.

BRINGING UP THE DEAD AND MAIMED.

Some of the poor fellows were brought up absolutely uninjured, but these were few. A large number were found huddled together at the bottom of the shaft, dreadfully battered. One poor old man, named John Beard, was carried to the surface minus one of his legs. He expired almost immediately in the fan engine house. Numbers were carried alive to their houses on stretchers, vast crowds, overjoyed at their rescue from the pit, accompanying. A great hush fell upon the crowd as the first batch of dead was brought up. Several of these were unrecognizable, except by their clothing. They had been virtually burnt to death. At seven o'clock last night thirty-eight dead bodies had been brought to the pit top. The ventilation had then been restored right along the extreme part of the workings. A large proportion of the entombed men are married. It has surprised everybody to find that John Beard, the hitcher in the pit, should have escaped so marvellously. The engineman at the shaft bottom, John Davies, has been equally lucky. He was burnt badly, but his recovery is deemed more than possible. The engine of which he had charge was dislocated by the explosion, and so was the masonry about it.

WHERE AND HOW THE EXPLOSION OCCURRED.

Inquiry tends to show that the explosion took place in one of the cross-headings, in that part of the pit known as Cook's Slope, nearly a thousand yards long. Five men were driving a hard heading in this locality, and a quantity of gas, it is said, issued out of a fissure suddenly. It was fired by the naked lights carried by the men. This really is, it is conjectured, the true cause of the disaster. It should be added, in justice to the proprietors of the colliery, that the reason why naked lights were used there was because the ventilation was "super-excellent." Thousands of cubic feet of air passed through the works every hour. The pit was reckoned, even by mining experts, in every way a model one. As showing the excellence of the management, it may be pointed out that a large portion of the haulage was done by the electric motor, so that horse labour was largely superseded.

THE VICTIMS AND THEIR RESCUERS.

William Davies, a haulier, had a trying battle for life. He and others who were working at the side nearest the pit shaft were enveloped in after-damp, and as they strove to get beyond the effects of the fumes they stumbled against large and recurring falls His father and two or three brothers were, however, behind in the workings in which the explosion occurred. A considerable number of lads are among the killed, one or two hardly over thirteen years old. The scene was painful in the extreme as the bodies of these juvenile workers were brought to bank. Among the onlookers scores might be seen with tears in their eyes, while others gave way to uncontrollable grief. So badly were the bodies of many of the dead shattered in the explosion, that they had to be cast into sacks Limbs or eyes were lost in a large number of instances. The men in some cases were found by the explorers—whose daring and bravery deserve all praise—with uplifted arms, as though trying to ward off their doom. The engine house shaft was turned into a mortuary. The men burned, but not dead, were taken home across the hills by means of an engine specially provided by the railway and colliery companies whose traffic is near. The trucks were filled with more or less disfigured bodies. The mining engineers of other collieries are assisting in the work of rescue, which continued all night. Relief gangs of colliery workmen are rendering substantial help. Many have had to return owing to the noxious fumes and the exhausting character of the work of exploration. The exploration workers include Mr. Holland, general manager of the Ebbw Vale Colliery; Mr. Gordon, M.E., and all the local colliery managers and sub-officers.

THE MEN STILL IN THE MINE.

The disinterment of the mangled bodies in the rear of Cook's Slope—for that is practically what the work amounts to—was a frightful sight. The gas still lingering in the workings retarded exploration. Seventy-five men have been brought up alive. Nearly all the workmen were connected with the South Wales Miners' Fund, which will make substantial provision for the families of those who have perished. The Home Secretary has telegraphed his sympathy. Mr. Morgan, the resident manager, was one of those in the pit at the time of the explosion, but he escaped owing to the fact that he was in another part of the workings which were not much affected. A number of horses were killed by the explosion.

THIS MORNING'S NEWS.

THE RESCUE PARTIES AT WORK.

A telegram received this morning says that the work of rescue has proceeded during the night, and that up to five o'clock this morning, at which time bodies were being brought quickly to bank, the total number recovered had reached about one hundred, leaving probably about thirty more of the bodies of the unfortunate men to be found. Ventilation has been restored, so that rescue work can be easily carried on Each rescue party works for six hours. Fourteen of the bodies brought up out of the workings known as No. 4 level were found not to be burnt, but to have been suffocated. The rest of the bodies were frightfully scorched, the majority of them beyond recognition. Of one family, a father and five sons were discovered dead, and in another instance a man and his two sons were found lying close together. There are many very pathetic incidents of this character as work of rescue proceeds. The interior of the Llanerch Colliery is described this morning by an official as being by no means so seriously damaged as was at first supposed from the shock of the explosion, and may consequently soon be restored to working order. The manager, Mr. Joseph Morgan, can give his opinion as to the cause of the disaster. Before the shift proceeded to work the colliery was reported free from gas. He, therefore, surmises that from some cause a large outburst occurred soon after the shift commenced working, his view being that the big blower sprang up, releasing a great amount of gas.

THE TERRIBLE SCENE IN THE MINE.

A colliery official who was in the pit during the night says many of the victims presented the appearance of having been grilled, and the sight presented was so sickening that some of the rescuing hands could not at first be prevailed on to lift the bodies. One miner who had been in previous explosions was found to have stuffed a handkerchief into his mouth, and to have covered his face in hope to escape the fate of his fellows. The colliery authorities engaged a large number of carts, and many bodies during the night were removed to their homes, but the majority are still in the electrical engine house. Those suffocated have the appearance of being in a calm sleep.

THE BISHOP OF LINCOLN'S TRIAL.

Sir Walter Phillimore in resuming his argument this morning in the Lambeth Library, the court being constituted as before further contended for the legality of altar-lights which had been in use in Western Christendom since the time of St. Jerome, and had, as Cranmer's works showed, become the common use. He dealt at length with the Injunctions as bearing on the matter, and showed that lights were in use at the time of the first Prayer Book A letter from Lambeth in 1549, by Bucer to the Minister at Strasburg, says that vestments and the use of candles and chrism had been retained by the Reformers. Bishop Hooper's Letters and Sermons bore testimony to the continued use of lights after the Reformation. It was important to consider the signification of any ceremony. If it symbolized error or innovation it was *pro tanto* bad, but lights set forth that Christ was the True Light of the World. He then adduced evidence from the inventories taken in the sixth year of Edward VI., as to candlesticks being in 1,400 churches in twenty-one counties. Bishop Cosin bore testimony to the use of the candlesticks in Royal Chapels, in the cathedrals, and in College chapels and private ones of Lord Burleigh and other noblemen in the reign of Elizabeth. He believed where the candlesticks disappeared they had been mainly valuable ones of silver, and had been sold. That matter had never been brought before any tribunal before. He then showed that there was continuance of the use of candlesticks in York Minster, Peterborough Cathedral, and other churches, the candles in which were lit at Evensong, a survival of the old practice when many of the ceremonies of the Mass were repeated at night. There is also a picture of a celebration at St. Paul's Cathedral in 1736 with lights burning at the celebration.

In reply to questions from the Bishops of London and Salisbury, the learned counsel said that the primary use of the lights as ornaments was to burn them at the Holy Communion.

The Bishop of London: No doubt.

THE HEALTH OF LORD SALISBURY.

With a view to set at rest all rumours as to the health of Lord Salisbury, it is stated that he has no complication following the attack of influenza, but is suffering from the weakness which is recognized by medical authorities as a result of the illness in all but very mild cases. Lord Salisbury stood the journey to London and his subsequent work satisfactorily, and was yesterday going on well. He will come to town on Monday for the opening of Parliament.

SERIOUS FIRE IN LANCASHIRE.

A disastrous fire occurred this morning on the premises of the Rothwell Hosiery Company, Bolton. The damage is estimated at £10,000. Four hundred people have been thrown out of employment. The loss to the company is covered by insurance.

THE FRENCH BUDGET.

The semi-official *Siècle* to-day states positively that the Finance Minister will balance the Budget without recourse to a loan or fresh taxes.

LORD CLIFTON AND THE COUNTY COURT JUDGE.

Lord Clifton appeared personally before Lord Justice Fry and Mr. Justice Matthew in a Divisional Court of Queens's Bench to-day, and asked for a writ of certiorari directed to the Judge of Rochester County Court to bring up to the High Court certain warrants and orders, and particularly a warrant made for his arrest. His lordship handed up an affidavit which he had made as to the facts, and their lordships said they would read it over and give their decision to-morrow.

DR. TALMAGE'S TROPHIES.

Mr. Henry Gaze, the excursionist, writes that the stones for Dr. Talmage procured during his visit to the Holy Land were not to form portions of the structure of his new Tabernacle, but to be employed in the erection of the pulpit. A stone procured from Mount Sinai was to be first laid, as emblematic of the Mosaic dispensation and the law given from thence, the second stone, as described in your notice, from Mount Calvary, is to be placed upon it as suggestive of the new and better dispensation; and the third, from Mars Hill, as indicating, by its reference to Paul's oration from thence to the Athenians, the proclamation of the Gospel to the Gentile world.

THE AUSTRIAN EMPEROR AND THE THEATRE.

Now that a full year has elapsed since the Crown Prince Rudolph's death, the Austrian Court has gone out of mourning, and the Emperor will be seen at the theatre and opera again. As he was always a great playgoer, his twelvemonth's deprivation of theatrical enjoyments must often have been sharply felt; for, indeed, few men require relaxation from State cares so much as he does. He is an indefatigable worker, rising at 5 A.M. and remaining busy the whole day, so that a couple of hours at the theatre in the evening were always appreciated by him as a genuine brain rest. It must be added that his Majesty is the most generous contributor to the two Court theatres, as he makes good the annually-recurring deficits in the budgets of these two institutions out of his privy purse.

DARING BURGLARY AT KNIGHTSBRIDGE.

One of the branch establishments of Mr. Spurgeon (the well-known mantle manufacturer), situate at 43, Brompton-road, was broken into early this morning. The place was left securely locked up last night, the manager and other employés going home about 8. There being no one residing on the premises the gas is left burning in the shop. The safe was placed at the back of the shop, and this the thieves removed to a convenient corner, and actually tore the back from it and stole the contents, the value of which is not known at present. The drapers' cash desk had also been wrenched open and the contents taken. sealskin and other expensive mantles were likewise taken, besides a number of gold and silver mounted umbrellas. The thieves had effected an entrance by bursting open the front door of the shop.

INVESTIGATING THE GOUFFE MYSTERY.

The examining magistrate who is conducting the investigation into the Gouffe murder left this morning for Lyons, accompanied by Gabrielle Bompard, and taking with him the trunk in which the body of the murdered man is alleged to have been placed. On arriving at Lyons the magistrate will follow up in every detail the proceedings of Eyraud and Gabrielle Bompard as narrated by the latter, and will take the drive to the neighbouring village of Millery, where, according to the woman's story, the corpse was thrown out of the carriage.—*Reuter.*

BEER BOTTLERS ON STRIKE.

A dispute having arisen among the employés of Messrs. Whitbread and Co. (Limited), bottled beer stores, Gray's-inn-road, the men struck work yesterday afternoon. They objected to the amount of work which the company required of them, and not succeeding in their efforts to reduce it they carried out their threat to cease work. Of the two hundred employed nearly the whole struck, formed in procession, and paraded the streets. An interview took place between the manager and representatives of the men, with the result that a promise was given that the men's demand should be conceded. On this understanding work will be resumed to-day.

THE ABOLITION OF THE BENGAL OPIUM TRADE.

Sir Joseph Pease will go to the ballot in the approaching session with his motion for the abolition of the Bengal opium trade. The motion, it appears, will be somewhat modified to meet the objection that, in its present form, it would allow the Government to make up by an increased export of Malwa opium for the stoppage of the Bengal trade.

An Anti-opium League has been formed in Holland having for its object to bring public opinion to bear on the system of raising revenue from the farming of the opium monopoly in the Dutch West Indies. The manifesto of the league is signed by a considerable number of present or former members of both branches of the Netherlands Legislature, ex-colonial officials, and other influential persons.

SHOT DEAD BY A COMPANION.

Yesterday morning a youth named Walter Dawson, aged sixteen, residing at Beighton, in Derbyshire, was shot dead by a companion, named Reginald Dickenson, aged fourteen who lives at the same place. Dawson went to the farm of Dickenson's parents for some straw and had to wait for it. The two lads, with another, began playing, and Dickenson going up into a loft brought down a gun. He states that he had no idea that it was loaded, but the third lad, seeing a cap on it, called out to Dickenson not to shoot. The caution came too late, however. The lad pulled the trigger and Dawson, with a groan, fell dead, shot through the heart.

Matinées of "Dr. Bill" are to be given every Saturday.

Mr. Ernest Parke has been removed from Pentonville Prison to Millbank.

The freedom of the borough of Hull will be conferred upon Sir Albert K. Rollit, M.P., and Mr. H. J. Atkinson, M.P., on Wednesday, the 19th inst.

THE EMPEROR WILLIAM'S BOLD STROKE:

ALL GERMANY RINGING WITH HIS WORDS.

It may literally be said (writes the Berlin correspondent of the *Times*) that all Germany has been ringing to-day with the words used by the Emperor in his two decrees on the labour question which have been published, and even the echo of these words in other countries has already been borne back here in no slight volume of sound. The subjects of the Emperor are charmed to find that the young Sovereign, whom they at first took to be animated exclusively by a passion for soldiering, now reveals himself in the character of an ardent and ambitious social reformer.

One thing is very remarkable about these two Imperial decrees—namely, that every public commentator on them seems to assume that they were the direct outcome of his own heart and hand, and that Prince Bismarck had no share whatever in their origin and authorship. Hence it has been inferred that the idea of this decree must necessarily have been the Emperor's own, as well as that it denotes a resolution on the part of his Majesty to strike out an indepentent path, not caring whether the Chancellor will follow him or not.

The German press of all shades unites in hailing the step just taken by his Majesty as one eminently calculated to advance the well-being of his subjects and to increase the respect and regard felt for the Throne. The *Vossische Zeitung* and the *Berliner Tageblatt*, both Radical organs, the National Liberal *National Zeitung*, the Democratic *Volks Zeitung*, the Clerical *Germania*, and the Conservative *Post*, *Kreuz Zeitung*, and *Deutsches Tageblatt* for once are of one mind in regard to the paramount importance and possibilities for good of these decrees.

The *National Zeitung* remarks that the comprehensive programme of social reform which is shadowed forth in the two Imperial decrees will only gradually shape itself into definitive lines. But even in the purely general character in which as yet it is clothed it is a declaration of policy which will make itself felt not only in Germany, but also throughout the entire world.

LORD TENNYSON AND THE WESTERN LOCAL PREACHER.

In an article on Lord Tennyson in the February *Wesleyan Methodist Magazine*, the Rev. Henry Smith says:—"Sunday morning, December 26, 1886, will not soon be forgotten by ministers and local-preachers who had to take appointments in distant places on the Isle of Wight. It was one of the wildest mornings imaginable. One veteran local preacher while pressing on against wind and rain, fell down dead within a short distance of Freshwater Wesleyan Chapel. Lord Tennyson came upon the scene in a few minutes with his friend Professor Ralston. The kindly interest taken by the Laureate in the widow and friends of the honoured local preacher will never be forgotten. The letter of sympathy contained expressions of the poet's personal belief as to the honour and blessedness of being engaged in so glorious a work as that of the Wesleyan local preacher. He was much impressed with the circumstance that the preacher's notes indicated that the sermon that morning was to have been of a specially gladsome character. Lord Tennyson wrote—'I cannot but look upon his death as a happy one: sudden, painless, while he was on his way to his chapel to render thanks and praise to his Maker. Our liturgy prays against sudden death; but I myself could pray for such a sudden death as Isaac Porter's.'"

THE AMERICAN SQUADRON AT TOULON.

A Central News telegram from Paris says:—The naval commander-in-chief at Toulon entertained the officers of the American squadron at dinner last night the proceedings being characterized by great cordiality and good fellowship. To-morrow the American officers will be present at a grand ball at Toulon, where they will meet several Spanish naval officers. The American ships sail on Tuesday next for Villa Franca, near Nice.

THE CANADIAN TEAM AT WIMBLEDON.

A Dalziel's telegram from Ottawa says, Mr. Prior, M.P. for British Columbia, has been selected to command the Canadian Wimbledon team for 1890.

FIRE IN HOUNSLOW SQUARE.

A large fire broke out at a private residence in Hounslow-square shortly before nine o'clock this morning. Several engines rapidly arrived at the scene but, notwithstanding the efforts of the firemen, the upper part of the building, together with its contents, was completely destroyed.

THE FRENCH LANGUAGE IN THE NORTH-WEST.

An Ottawa Dalziel's telegram says:—The Government apparently purposes to evade the question of the abolition of the French language in the North-West by empowering local assemblies to deal with the subject. French members oppose the idea of local assemblies.

SIR J. PENDER AND ART STUDENTS.

Sir John Pender has agreed to contribute £500 a year for three years for the art training of five students at Mr. Herkomer's School of Art at Bushey, candidates being selected from a class not otherwise able to gain the requisite training. One pupil, Mr. Trevor Haddon, has already been selected.

THE QUEEN AND THE FOREST GATE DISASTER.

The Queen has, through Mr. Ritchie, President of the Local Government Board, expressed her painful interest in the narrative of the sad disaster at the Forest-gate schools. Her Majesty commands him "to express to the poor mammas her deep sympathy." It is added that "the Queen trusts that more care will be taken in the future to prevent overheating of flues and stoves." Mr Hedley yesterday informed the managers that in accordance with the instructions he had received he had seen the relatives of the deceased children and they had been much gratified by the Queen's message.

EX-KING MILAN AT THE GAMING TABLES.

A Union telegram from Monaco says King Milan is reported to have lost a quarter of a million francs at the tables.

CO-OPERATIVE INDUSTRIAL PARTNERSHIPS.

A curious and very encouraging illustration of the working of co-operative industrial partnerships has just been given in connection with the firm of Messrs. William Thomson and Sons, Woodhouse Mills, Huddersfield. Mr. H. E. Rimey, secretary of the Labour Association for promoting such partnerships, states that the workers at the mills—which have been under the system for three years—learning that for the past year no dividend could be paid, "spontaneously met and unanimously resolved to pay it themselves out of their own accumulated dividends on their wages." We are often told that workmen readily consent to take part of the profits, but not to bear any portion of the losses. Here they have done more than participate in a loss, they have shown their satisfaction with the arrangements under which they work by giving a dividend on the capital employed when the business failed to yield it.

AN INTERNATIONAL RAILWAY CONGRESS.

The Russian Government has sanctioned the scheme of holding an International Railway Congress at St. Petersburg in 1892.—*Union*.

MRS. BOOTH AND THE SALVATION ARMY BANDS.

Seven years ago there was just one brass band in the Salvation Army. It was composed of a father and his sons. Since then 8,550 other bands have been formed. They have been mostly recruited from the tap-room (says the *War Cry*), and have sought out the theory and practice of music for themselves. A few days since a deputation of the Army Bandsmen paid a visit to Mrs. Booth. The men were addressed by the "General's" dying wife, and the scene was a most affecting one. There is no change in Mrs. Booth's condition except for the worse, Mr. Booth reports.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN COMPANY.

Telegraphing yesterday afternoon, a correspondent at Durban says there is considerable reason for believing that the Government of Cape Colony, in order to satisfy the views of the Afrikander party, has demanded and secured an important share of the control over the affairs of the new South African Chartered Company.

Mrs. Langtry is progressing favourably.

The Queen has granted to Miss Elsie Dennehay, daughter of the late General Dennehay, the suite of apartments in Hampton Court Palace vacant by the death of Mrs Fitzroy.

Beyond a telegram announcing his arrival at the Cape, no reassuring message it is reported, has been received from Mr. Schnadhorst.—*Nottingham Express*.

Miss E. M. Merrick, the London artist, who last year had the honour of painting a portrait of her Highness the Khediviah, has received a commission from Sir George Elliot, Bart., M.P., to paint a picture of Mr. H. M. Stanley, which he purposes presenting to the Royal Geographical Society.

WHAT THE BULGARIAN CONSPIRATORS AIMED AT.

A Reuter's telegram from Sophia says:—Major Panitza and his confederates are understood to have held a meeting at which the removal of Prince Ferdinand and his Ministers was considered. On this point the conspirators were entirely agreed, but a discussion arose as to who should replace Prince Ferdinand on the throne. Major Panitza and another of the conspirators were in favour of recalling Prince Alexander of Battenberg; but the others proposed to send a petition to the Tzar, requesting him to designate a prince to fill the throne. It is stated that the proceedings at this meeting were of a stormy character. It reached the ears of the Government, which, acting upon the information, proceeded to arrest the conspirators.

MISS EASTLAKE'S ILLNESS.

The doctor's report shows that the illness from which Miss Eastlake, the actress, is suffering is a bad case of Russian influenza.—*Dalziel*.

MR. GLADSTONE AT OXFORD.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Gladstone attended the half-past eight service in All Souls Chapel, Oxford, yesterday morning, and the right hon. gentleman subsequently breakfasted with the President of Magdalen (Mr. T. H. Warren) and the Fellows at the President's house. Among those present were Sir John Stainer, Mr. Guy Nickalls, the president of the University Boat Club, and the Hon. F. J. N. Thesiger, captain of the University Cricket Club, both of whom are undergraduates of Magdalen. Mr. Gladstone lunched at All Souls, and in the evening dined with the Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Bellamy, President of St. John's College. Among those who received invitations to meet Mr. Gladstone were Sir Henry Acland; the Warden of All Souls, Sir William Anson; the Warden of New, Dr. Sewell; the Principal of Hertford, Dr. Boyd; the Dean of Christ Church, Dr Liddell: the President of Corpus, Dr. Fowler; and Professor Clifton. Mrs. Gladstone left for London by the 4.5 train.

ANOTHER CARNEGIE FREE LIBRARY.

Mr. Carnegie offers a million dollars to Pittsburg for the endowment of a free library.—*Dalziel*.

THE POPE AND THE JEWS.

One of the last acts of the late Chief Rabbi, Dr. Adler, was to call the attention of Cardinal Manning to a report that the Pope had "greatly approved" of a recent French work asserting that the blood of Christian children is necessary for the performance of Jewish rites. Cardinal Manning, while protesting—perhaps not with his usual felicity of phrase—that he had "neither sympathy nor credulity for such horrors," promised to write to Rome on the subject, and he kept his word. He has now been informed by the Secretary of State, Cardinal Rampolla, "that the Pope directed the usual letter which acknowledges the receipt of books, without any commendation on them, to be sent to the author of the work in question," and that "it was the formal letter sent to every one before the book is examined, and often before it is seen." Cardinal Manning observes in conclusion that "nothing could be farther from the mind of the Pope than to wound gratuitously the susceptibilities of the Jewish people."

HARROW SCHOOL.

There will be an examination on the first day of April, for six or seven entrance scholarships, open to all boys not members of the school, who were born in or after the year 1876. Further particulars may be had of the head-master's secretary.

LONDON RADICALS AND MR. CONYBEARE, M.P.

The Council of the Metropolitan Radical Federation have resolved to present a complimentary address to Mr. Conybeare at their annual dinner, which will take place at St. Paul's Café, on Monday evening next. The address will bear reference to Mr. Conybeare's action at the Falcarragh evictions and his subsequent imprisonment. The four delegates from the National Secular Society have been instructed by the executive of that body not to append their signatures to the document. Mr. Conybeare, speaking at a political meeting in Cornwall some weeks ago, described the policy of Mr. Balfour in Ireland as "atheistical." The freethought organization resented the application of such an epithet, and failing to obtain from Mr. Conybeare any satisfactory explanation or apology, has withheld the signatures of its representatives from the address.

THE POPE AND THE INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC.

"We learn by special telegram from Rome (says the *Tablet*) that a decree has been issued by Cardinal Monaco La Valletta empowering the bishops in every country visited by the influenza to absolve the faithful from the obligation to fast and abstain until further notice. It is not for us (*Tablet*) to conjecture in what way the bishops of this country or elsewhere may see well to exercise this discretion; but a Lent without fasting would certainly be memorable."

BETHNAL-GREEN RADICALS AT PLAY.

Cheerfully paying their sixpences, not merely for themselves, but for the young and rising generation of East-end Radicals, the Liberals of South-west Bethnal-green last night filled almost to overflowing the schoolroom in which was held their annual conversazione. They thoroughly enjoyed the homely songs and recitations to which they were treated by performers among themselves. The applause was greatest, however, when Mr. Pickersgill came forward to reply to a vote of confidence which had been given unanimously to himself and to his brother-member, Mr. Howell. Alluding to the number of ladies present, he expressed the opinion that those political questions which did not touch the homes of the people were of very little use, and there should be few who had more interest in politics than women. He hoped to see a Ladies' Liberal Association in Bethnal-green. The speeches of the local politicians were far less mild than that of their member; and Bethnal-green Radicals gloried in the hope, again and again expressed, that ere another year had passed the present government will have run its course. Mention should be made of the fact that Mr. James Branch and Mr. Charles Harrison, London County Councillors, were similarly honoured to the members of Parliament.

A RADICAL DEMONSTRATION ON EASTER SUNDAY.

The council of the Metropolitan Radical Federation have decided to hold a labour demonstration in Hyde Park on Easter Sunday next. The precise object in view has not as yet been formulated, but it will in all probability include the principle of an eight hours working day, and the payment of Members of Parliament.

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY MEN AND THEIR CLAIMS.

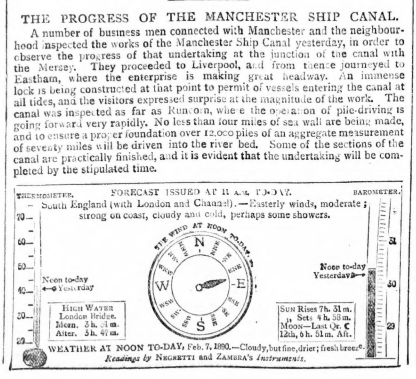
A manifesto was issued last night by the secretary of the Hours Movement on the North Eastern Railway to the employés of the company, urging that mass meetings of the men shall be held at every centre on the 15th or 16th inst. to decide on future action, seeing that the directors have refused the programme demanded by the men. There have been certain concessions, says the manifesto, but they are not regarded as a response to the claims of the men. The directors have forced the men to combine. They will either have to accept the challenge or make an ignominious surrender.

THE PROGRESS OF THE MANCHESTER SHIP CANAL.

A number of business men connected with Manchester and the neighbourhood inspected the works of the Manchester Ship Canal yesterday, in order to observe the progress of that undertaking at the junction of the canal with the Mersey. They proceeded to Liverpool, and from thence journeyed to Eastham, where the enterprise is making great headway. An immense lock is being constructed at that point to permit of vessels entering the canal at all tides, and the visitors expressed surprise at the magnitude of the work. The canal was inspected as far as Runcorn, where the operation of pile-driving is going forward very rapidly. No less than four miles of sea wall are being made, and to ensure a proper foundation over 12,000 piles of an aggregate measurement of seventy miles will be driven into the river bed. Some of the sections of the canal are practically finished, and it is evident that the undertaking will be completed by the stipulated time.

FORECAST ISSUED AT 11 A.M. TO-DAY.

South England (with London and Channel).—Easterly winds, moderate; strong on coast, cloudy and cold, perhaps some showers.



HIGH WATER
London Bridge.
Morn. 3h. 34m.
After. 3h. 47m.

SUN Rises 7h. 31m.
" Sets 4h. 58m.
MOON—Last Qr. ☾
12th, 6h. 51m. Aft.

WEATHER AT NOON TO-DAY, Feb. 7, 1890.—Cloudy, but fine, drier; fresh breeze.

Readings by NEGRETTI and ZAMBRA'S *Instruments*.

THE MONEY MARKET.

One o'clock.

MARKETS STILL LIFELESS.—NO FEATURE.

There is certainly a much better supply of loanable capital in the open market, and although further heavy repayments are being made at the Bank of England again to-day, short fixtures are obtainable at 5½ per cent., or thereabouts. The discount rate for three months bankers' acceptances remains nominally 4⅜ to 4½ per cent., but little, if any, business is secured at the higher figure. The foreign exchanges are maintained, and that is about all that can be said of them, they none of them give any indication at present of rising to a point which would make it profitable to ship gold to this country except in the case of the Paris rate, which has hardened, in connection, it is understood, with a financial transaction entered into between Paris bankers and the Portuguese Government.

The condition of the Stock Markets at the present time reminds one of what is usually the case in the middle of the summer, when everybody is holiday-making. Hardly anything in the way of new business is attempted, and operators just let prices drag. This state of affairs will probably continue until money becomes easier. Consols and other high-class investment stocks are steady, but in the Home Railway market quotations are dull and generally lower. North Eastern Consols continue to be offered, but otherwise little has been done. In the Foreign department there are a few movements, ranging from 1-16 to ¼, but the market is quite featureless. American Railways present a somewhat stronger appearance, but here also, apart from a recovery in Union Pacifics and an improvement in Louisville shares, the changes are insignificant. The Louisville and Nashville Company will accept from stockholders, in full or part payment of subscriptions to the new stock, collateral trust bonds at 110 and accrued interest. Trunks are dull and Mexican Railway issues have given way. Nitrate descriptions are supported on the report that a large financial house is to act as agent to all the companies.

Some members of the Stock Exchange are likely to be brought into trouble in connection with the disappearance of the Oldham Bank cashier. They will not only have to cover the losses caused by his failure to meet his engagements, but run the risk of expulsion for doing business for a man in his position.

One of the banks of issue authorized by the official decree published on January 18 has been established at Rio de Janeiro under the title of "Issue Bank of the United States of Brazil." It is expected that the bank will commence business on the 12th inst.

The return of the Bankers' Clearing House for the week ending February 5 amounted to £187,610,000, against £162,735,000 for the corresponding week last year.

The prolonged strike at Silvertown has not had much effect on the year's working of the Indiarubber, Gutta-percha, and Telegraph Works Company (Limited). The accounts show the net profit for the year to be £57,748. Adding £25,087 brought forward, and deducting £20,800 interim dividend paid in July, there remains a disposable balance of £62,036. The directors recommend the distribution of a dividend of 10*s*. per share, free of income tax, amounting to £20,800, making, with the interim dividend, a total payment for the year of 10 per cent., and leaving £41,236 to be carried forward.

The gross receipts of the twenty-three principal railways in the United Kingdom for the week ending February 2 amounted to £1,269,589, an increase of £45,477, or 3.8 per cent.

Messrs. Brown, Janson, and Co. announce with regret the retirement of Mr. Basil Braithwaite, owing to long-continued ill-health, and notify that Mr. James Greig, late of Messrs. Blockey, Greig, and Co., has been admitted as partner into their firm.

The accounts of the London General Omnibus Company for the half-year show an available balance of £38,214. The usual dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum is declared, and £4,295 carried forward.

The Jubilee Gold Company has declared a dividend of 5 per cent. payable to shareholders registered on February 7.

The Transvaal Mortgage, Loan, and Finance Company have declared an interim dividend for the six months ending January 31 on the ordinary shares at the rate of 16 per cent. per annum on the amount paid up.

LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.—The market opened quiet with a moderate demand. Probable sales 6,000 or 7,000 bales. Futures are steady at one to two points advance.

The following are the latest changes compared with yesterday's closing:—

HOME RAILWAYS.—*Improved*: Midland ⅛. *Receded*: North Eastern ⅜, Brighton Deferred and Chatham Preference ¼, Caledonian, Great Eastern, Great Western, North Western, and South Eastern Deferred ⅛ each.

FOREIGN STOCKS.—*Risen*: Greek 1881 ¼, Peruvian 1870 ⅛, Egyptian State Domain ¼, and the Unified 1-16. *Lower*: Turkish Group 1 ¼, French Three per Cents. ¼, Egyptian Daira ⅛, Italian and Spanish 1-16.

AMERICAN RAILROADS.—*Higher*: Louisville and Nashville ½, Philadelphia and Reading shares ¼, the First Preference ½, Union Pacific shares ⅜, Central Pacific, Denver Ordinary, and Lake Shore shares ⅛ each. *Fallen*: Northern Pacific Preference ½, New York Central ¼, Milwaukee shares and Norfolk and Western Preference ⅛.

CANADIAN AND FOREIGN RAILWAYS.—*Advanced*: Grand Trunk First Preference ⅛, and Nitrate shares ⅛. *Fallen*: Mexican Second Preference ¾, the Ordinary ⅝, and the First Preference ¼.

MINES AND MISCELLANEOUS.—*Risen*: Rio Tinto 1-16. *Fallen*: De Beers 3-16 and Ottoman Bank 1-16.

The following are this day's 1 o'clock prices of the principal Stocks and Shares:—

BRITISH FUNDS, ETC.		
Consols (2¾) money	97⅛	¼
Do acct.	97⅛	⅜
Do. [illegible]	99½	100
2½ per Cent	84¼	5¼
Local Loan Stock	102¼	3
India 3½ per Cent	107	½
Do. 4½ p.c. Ru	71⅛	⅜
Egyptian Guar.	101¼	¾
Met. Bd. Wks. 3½	112	½
Do. 3 p.c. Scrip	102	½
Birmingham Crp. St.	110	11
Liverpool	112¼	¾

FOREIGN STOCKS.		
Argent. 4½ p.c. 1888	81	⅝
Do. 3½ p.c. Scrip	63½	4⅝
Do Treasury	94	5
Austrian Gold	93	5
Do. Silver	74	6
Braz. Scrip iss. at 90	76¼	¾
Do. part paid	10	9 dis
B. Ayres 6 p.c.	100½	1½
Do. Cedulas I	39	40
Chilian 4½ p.c. 1886	101	2
Costa Rica A	91	3
Do. B	88	90
Egypt. State Dom	102½	3
Do. Unified	93⅛	¾
Do. Preference	105⅝	⅞
Do. Daira Sanieh	83½	¾
French 3 p.c. Rnts	86¼	¾
Do. 4½ p.c. Rnts	105½	6
Greek 5 p.c. 1881	90¼	¾
Hung Gold Rentes	87⅝	⅞
Italian	92⅞	3
Mexican 6 per c 1888	94½	5
Peruvian 5 p.c.	17⅛	⅝
Do. 6 p.c.	20⅞	1⅛
Portuguese	65⅝	⅞
Russian 4 p.c. 1889	94	½
Spanish 4 p.c.	72¼	⅜
Turkish 1888	102	4
Series A	41	½
Series B	21¼	5
Series D	17¾	⅞
4½ p.c. 1871	90	¼
4 p.c. Defence	101	½
4 p.c. Priority	95	7
Uruguay Unified	72	⅝
Virginia Funded	44½	5½
U.S. 4½ p.c.	107	⅛

BRITISH RAILWAYS.		
Caledonian	125	¼
Great Eastern	81⅛	⅝ xd
Great Northern	124	6
Ditto A	105½	6½
Great Western	165	½
Hull and Barnsley	58½	9
Lanc. and York	123	4
Brighton (Ordinary)	154	6 xd
Brighton A	151¼	2 xd
Chatham (Ordinary)	22¼	½
Cha. Preference	108¾	9½
North Western	177	⅛
South Western	255	6
Manchester & Shef.	89	91 xd
Do. A	48⅛	¾ xd
Met. Consolidated	75½	6 xd
Do. District	30	½
Midland	143¼	¾
North British Pref	77½	8
Do. Def.	64⅛	⅜
North Eastern	168⅝	9⅛
North Stafford	113	15
South Eastern	125	8 xd
Do. Deferred	93⅝	⅞ xd
Taff Vale 1888	80	3

FOREIGN RAILWAYS.		
Canada Pacific	76⅜	⅝ xd
Cen. Pacific Shares	33¼	4¼ xd
Chic. Mil. and St. Pl	71	¼
Denver & R. Grande	16⅞	17⅛
Do. Pref.	51⅝	2
Illinois Shares	121½	2½
Lake Shore	108½	9
Ohio & Mississippi	21¾	2¼
Louis. and Nash.	91½	¾ xd
Mex. Cen. New Shs.	71¾	2¼
Miss. Kan. & Texas	10	½
N.Y. Cen. Shares	108¼	9¼
New York Ontario	19⅜	⅝
Erie Shares	27⅝	⅞
Do. Sec. Mort.	103¾	4¼
Norfolk & West. Pre.	63¾	4¼
N.Y.P & O. 1st M.	34½	5
North Pacific Pre.	76⅝	7
Pennsylvania Sh.	56¼	¾
Phil & Read Sh.	20⅞	1⅛
1st Preference	72	3
Union Pacific S.	68¼	9¼
Wabash Preference	33¼	¾
Do. Gen. Mort.	52¾	3¼
Grand Trunk Ord	10⅝	⅞
Do. First Pref.	73½	¾
Do. Second Pref	50⅛	⅝
Do. Third Pref.	28¼	⅝
Do. Guaranteed	76½	¾
Mexican Ordinary	38⅞	9⅛
Do. First Pref	118¼	¾
Do. do. 2nd Pref.	75¼	6¼
Lombardo-Venet	12⅛	¼
Nitrate Railway	17⅝	18

BANKS.		
Alliance Bank	15	15 xd
City Bank	22	3 xd
Consolidated Bank	8¼	¾ xd
Imperial Ottoman	11 3/16	5/16
London and County	92½	3½
Union of London	40½	1½ xd
London and West	70½	1½ xd
London Joint Stock	38½	9½ xd
Nat. Prov. of Eng.	66	7
Stand. Bnk. S. Africa	59	60

MINES.		
Indian Consolidated	2/9	3/3
Mysore shares	5¼	½
Ooregums	2 1/16	3/16
Cape Copper	3½	⅝
Namaqua	1	⅛
Mason and Barry	6 9/16	11/16
Rio Tinto	16¼	⅜
Montana £1 shares	1	⅛
De Beers new shares	19⅝	¾
S. African Explor.	23¾	4¼

TELEGRAPHS & TELEPHONES		
Anglo-American	50½	1½
Do. Pref.	86	7
Brazilian Submarine	12¼	⅝
Direct Unit. States	10	¼
Eastern	11	¼
Ditto Extension	13¾	14
National Telephone	6⅜	⅝
Globe Teleg. Trust	6⅝	⅞

TRAMWAYS, ETC.		
London Gen. Om.	195	205
London Street	12½	13½
London Tramway	14¾	15¼
North Metropolitan	18¼	¾

WATERWORKS.		
Chelsea Waterworks	250	5
East London	211	16
Grand Junction	123	8
Kent	275	81
Lambeth	252	[illegible]
New River, New	355	70
S'thwrk & Vauxhal.	165	70
W. Middlesex	253	6

GAS & ELECTRIC LIGHT.		
Gaslight & Coke A	247	50
Imp. Continental	213	18
South Metro. A	230	5
Do. B	222	7
Do. C	255	45
London Electric	3	⅝
Metropolitan	4½	¾

MISCELLANEOUS.		
Allsopp	8¼	⅝
Guinness and Co.	335	40
Hotchkiss	7	¼
Bryant and May	23⅛	⅝
Spratt's Patent	8⅜	⅝
Liverpool Nitrate	13	15
Primitiva Nitrate	16	½
Salt Union Shares	10¼	½
P and O. Stm. Def.	207	12
Royal Mail Steam	75	6
Nat. Discount Co.	11¾	12¼x
Hudson's Bay	19⅞	20⅛
Suez Canal	90⅝	1
E. and W. Ind. Dock	18	20
London and St. K.	55	7

The following are quotations of securities receiving attention at present, and not given in our list above:—

Bell's Asbestos	14⅞	15⅛
San Jorge	6½	7
Tarapaca Water	10¼	¾
City and Suburban	8½	¾
Jumper's Gold	8¼	9¼
Jubilee	5	¼
Salisbury	9½	10
Ruby	¾	1 pm
Lisbon Berlyn	8/6	9/6
Oceana Land	11¼	12
Sutherland Reef	3½	4
Transvaal Land	1	¼ pm
G. F. of S. Africa	5	½
Exploring Co.	16	18
Rothschild's Exploration	2¼	½ pm
Southern Land	⅜	⅝ pm
Eastman's Ordinary	15¼	¾
Elmore's Copper &c.	6⅛	⅝

"Pall Mall Gazette" Office,

FRIDAY MORNING.

There is no one who will not feel a thrill of sympathy as he reads the account of the way-going of Lord Hartington—looking "pale and worn," clad in a thick, dark overcoat, carrying a large rug, and wearing a "respirator over his mouth." May he soon come back, sun-bronzed and vigorous; and may his respirator be left in the depths of the Mediterranean!

⁂

In a day or two's time we shall all be reading what is called a "Queen's Speech." Meanwhile, we have this morning the genuine "Queen's Letter," in which her Majesty asks Mr. Ritchie

> To express to the poor mammas her deep sympathy. It is a blessing to think that the poor dear children cannot have suffered or even been aware of *what* happened. The Queen trusts, however, that more care will be taken in the future to prevent overheating of flues and stoves.

It is easy to pick holes in the "Queen's English." But there is a homely touch in the letter—especially in the "mammas"—full of the domestic motherly instinct which is the main secret of her Majesty's popularity.

⁂

An event of much interest to hockey-players is fixed for Monday next. This is a match between North and South. It will be the first of the kind, and the more interesting because in the South nothing is known either of the style of play or of the individual merits of the Northern players. They come chiefly from Lancashire, Cheshire, and Yorkshire, and may be trusted to play in the same spirited way that has characterized their efforts at football and kindred sports. But the Southerners think they will put a team into the field good enough to win. Hockey has developed so rapidly, both round London and in the North of England, that it is expected the contest will draw a considerable crowd to the Queen's Ground, at Kensington.

⁂

More Tennysoniana, referring this time to the Laureate's school-days. "My uncle," writes a correspondent, "though four years the poet's senior, was in the same class with him at Louth, and he used to threaten Alfred Tennyson with a thrashing when he did his Latin verse for him: thus early did he begin to be a poet! To this day he and my father often talk of the tremendous thrashings that 'old Waite,' the headmaster, used to give them, for even such a small matter as false quantity. I believe both my uncle and Tennyson were laid up for some time with one thrashing. 'Old Waite's' portrait hangs in my father's study now, and only a few years ago, shortly before Mr. Waite's death, my uncle went to see him, then a very old man, and he expressed his regret at having been so cruelly free with the stick; and if I mistake not he alluded with pride to Tennyson's fame.

⁂

It was stated a few days since in these columns that in the Dutch version of "The Middleman," now running in the Amsterdam Municipal Theatre, "Cyrus Blenkarn" was played by Heer L. Boumeester. I well remember (writes a correspondent) having a chat with him one evening about a year since behind the scenes of the old Stadsschouwburg. He was playing "Macbeth," and his banquet scene was certainly effective. He is, I was told, the leading Dutch tragedian. It was his sister who played "Lady Macbeth." There was a big audience, many of them having English Shakespeares in their laps.

⁂

This same Stadsschouwburg is a wonderful old theatre. It has been standing more than 100 years, it is built almost entirely of wood, and there is not a single supporting pillar visible throughout its whole interior. The galleries are literally hung upon the walls. When the audience goes out it is strange enough to hear the rafters cracking in all directions as they are relieved of the weight they have been supporting. For protection against fire there is a large water tank over the orchestra.

⁂

The recent death at Paris of the French authoress, Mdme. Olympe Audouard, recalls an interesting story which she was accustomed to tell regarding the first of her summer visits to Baden-Baden. She had hired a carriage, and taken a long drive into the country, offering to the driver, on her return, what she thought an amount sufficient to cover the fare. But the driver refused to accept it, and proceeded to overwhelm her with a torrent of—to her—incomprehensible German words, with the accompaniment of some vigorous gesticulation. In the midst of this scene there came from a villa on the other side of the way an elderly but exceedingly erect gentleman, who, addressing her in French, said, "I perceive, Madame, that you are not acquainted with our language. Might I ask how long you have had the carriage?" The lady informed the stranger, and he then told her what she ought to give to the driver, who, by this time, had changed his manner, and stood biting at the rim of his cap, and trembling with excitement.

⁂

The gentleman then proceeded to ask; "How much will you give the man for his *pourboire*?" "Two francs," replied the lady. "But that is too much," rejoined her interrogator. "One ought not to be extravagant." To this the lady answered: "Are you, then, miserly, and that, too, with other people's money?" "Miserly, no; but I am careful, and people thank me for it." Mdme. Audouard expressed her acknowledgments for the help afforded her in the little difficulty, and the demands of the driver being satisfied, she and the gentleman retired to their respective villas. In the evening of the same day there was a grand concert given in Baden-Baden, attended by the King of Prussia, the King and Queen of Hanover, and the Prince of Wales. Mdme. Audouard also went to the concert. As she was proceeding to her seat the King of Prussia advanced to meet her, and said, "Do you not really think, madame, that I am quite right to be economical, since it is the money of my subjects that I spend?"

⁂

In the course of Lady Pollock's "Macready as I Knew Him," published six years ago, she relates how, in 1851, she had learned to feel the genius of Robert Browning through hearing the great tragedian read "Paracelsus." The following passage is interesting:—Of Robert Browning Macready spoke much, and with glowing enthusiam. He said that he pored over the pages of "Paracelsus" with ever-increasing delight. He held Browning to be one of the few great poets of the world. And let me here remind the reader that Browning was not at that time appreciated as he is now. He was then a young poet, whose force was gathering some distinguished admirers round him; but he was not the centre of an admiring crowd. Macready was a man who thought for himself, for the most part silently, always deeply. . . . He was disturbed by the discovery that I had not read "Paracelsus," and that I knew nothing of Browning beyond his name. He lifted his eyebrows; he muttered expressions of wonder; he once or twice said, "Oh, good God!" He took a turn or two up and down the room, and then said, "I really am quite at a loss; I cannot understand it." I pleaded the claims of the babies; they left me little time, &c. To which he replied, "Hand over the babies to the nurse, and read 'Paracelsus.'"

⁂

Mr. J. B. Pond, the well-known American entrepreneur, has given an enterprising interviewer from Baltimore some interesting reminiscences of platform stars he has personally conducted through the States. One of his earliest ventures was with Henry Ward Beecher, with whom he travelled over 400,000 miles; about 1,200 lectures were delivered, and Beecher's net share of the proceeds was 242,000 dols. Their journeyings were not, however, all along the primrose path, for Beecher's pronounced opinions had made him many and bitter enemies. Thus at Clinton, Iowa, he was followed to the lecture-hall by a hooting and jeering crowd, and when they got inside they found an evidently hostile audience, and even the chairman surly and reticent. But such was the fascination of the man, so irresistible was his eloquence, that in a quarter of an hour he held that audience spellbound, and when he was done they crowded round him to shake his hand and to wish him godspeed. It is interesting to learn on the same authority that Mark Twain receives more applications to lecture than any other man in the States, and he pays Mr. Pond 100 dollars a year merely to say no to the applications. Mr. Pond regards Mark's potential tour as equal to having 30,000 dollars in a savings bank, for all he has to do is to go and take it any season he chooses to lecture.

SCOTCH RADICALS AND THE PORTUGUESE QUESTION.

HECKLING OF SIR C. TENNANT AND MR. T. P. O'CONNOR.

The following incident in the Partick election, which we summarise from the *Daily Chronicle*, has a political moral which, we trust, will not be thrown away. There is a handful of speakers and writers who are for ever assuring us that the Radicals do not care for Imperial questions. These persons will do well to note the fact that Mr. O'Connor could only get a hearing in one of the most Radical of Scottish constituencies by renouncing the unpatriotic heresies of his London organ. Mr. Labouchere should take warning by the fate which has thus overtaken Mr. O'Connor for only vicariously preaching the doctrines which Mr. Labouchere himself loses no opportunity of proclaiming by his own hand and mouth.

Sir Charles Tennant, the Liberal candidate for Partick, is being subjected to severe "heckling" at the meetings he is holding. At one meeting a Scotch Gladstonian desired to be informed if he endorsed Mr. T. P. O'Connor's statement "that the Scotch Presbyterian missionaries and traders in the Shiré Highlands were brigands." Sir Charles is being assisted on his platforms by the member for the Scotland division of Liverpool, and a "heckler" read out extracts from the articles on Portugal which appeared from day to day in the *Star* denouncing Lord Salisbury's ultimatum as "the last infamy of Jingoism," as "enough to make a decent Englishman long for a lodge in some vast wilderness rather than in the city where such poltroonery passes for patriotism," and as a defence of "the brigandage which passes for industrial progress, missionary enterprise, the extension of civilization, and other pretty phrases by which the hypocrisy of modern public life conceals the meanness of its aims and brutality of its methods." In the end Mr. O'Connor put himself right as follows:—"It was, he said, unfair to make him responsible for the opinions of the *Star*, for he never wrote one line of the articles which were quoted against him. He did not deny his responsibility. Officially and technically he was responsible, but he never wrote one word of these articles. But he would say this—though it was unfair that he should be forced to reveal these secrets and details of his office life. . . . . If Africa was to be colonized and controlled by any European people, he had no hesitation in declaring that in his opinion it ought to be, and it had best be, controlled by men of British race.

EXTENSIVE FRAUDS ON A BUILDING SOCIETY.

ATTEMPTED SUICIDE OF THE SECRETARY.

The *Leeds Mercury* says:—Yesterday the Onward Building Society, which has for a quarter of a century done a large business in the Darlington and Tees-side district, deemed it necessary to suspend payment. It then leaked out that the secretary of the society, Mr. Thomas Dennison, who was appointed to the office a few months since on the death of Mr. John Harrison, who had been secretary of the society from the commencement, had shot himself on the company's premises on the previous afternoon or evening, although he still survived yesterday afternoon. The medical men have not been able to find the bullet, but although his case is very serious it is not altogether regarded as hopeless. Some statement the directors admit was left by Mr. Dennison, and this and other circumstances have induced them to refuse to pay out money until the affairs of the building society are thoroughly investigated. Mr. Dennison has been connected with the Onward Building Society above fifty years. He held office in connection with the Wesleyan body. He was about thirty-five years of age. It is stated that the deficiencies will amount to between £30,000 and £40,000, but that all this had occurred in the time of Mr. Harrison, the previous secretary, who died in the early part of last year. Mr. Dennison was not appointed secretary till May last. The Onward Building Society is the largest between Leeds and Newcastle, and has a turnover of £100,000 a year.

THE COLONIAL INSTITUTE REPORT.

The annual report of the council of the Colonial Institute, which will be laid before the annual meeting of Fellows on the 18th inst., presents some very satisfactory features. In 1889 525 members were elected, as compared with 283 during 1888. In view of the prosperous condition of the finances, and in continuation of the policy that has been pursued during the last two years, arrangements have been made to pay off on July 1, 1890, not only the stipulate half-yearly instalments, but an additional sum of £11,666 in reduction of the loan raised for purchasing the freehold of the site of the Institute. This operation will enable the whole debt to be extinguished on July 1, 1917, instead of July 1, 1926, as originally provided. It is probable that a series of works relating to the colonies will be published from time to time under the auspices of the Institute.

AN ANONYMOUS PRIZE-WINNER.

It is not often that the "literary gent" shows such modesty as that of the author of the prize essay on political economy, the reward for which M. Léon Say had to present yesterday at a grand meeting of the Society for the Study of Political Economy, at the Grand Hotel. The prize-winner, who was entitled to 3,000f., and whose essay bore not the slightest indication as to the identity of its author, did not put in an appearance, and M. Léon Say has the 3,000f. on his hands. He announced that all his efforts to find the writer had failed.

COLOURED CONVENTION IN WASHINGTON.

The National Convention of Delegates of the coloured citizens of the United States which is sitting in Washington has issued an address to the country protesting against the system which makes the coloured people a separate part of the population. It says that their votes are suppressed in the South, and their rights denied, while they are subject to summary execution on suspicion of crime, and are also the victims of an unjust labour system. They further complain that they are not allowed to sit on juries. The address declares in favour of the Blair Education Bill and of federal control over elections, and announces that the coloured people consider it their duty to vote against the Democrats because they deny them their rights. Finally, a protest is made against the deportation of blacks from Africa. Ex-Senator Pinchback has been elected president of the Convention.—*Reuter*.

THE SCAPEGOATS OF THE COPPER CORNER.

The names of the three scapegoats in the Copper Corner prosecution are (says the Paris correspondent of the *Graphic*) to be Secretan, Laveyssière, and Hentsch, all three of whom are already ruined and unhappy men. The effect produced by this announcement, which became public yesterday, is a very bad one. People are asking why the real chiefs of that affair are left alone, and various names are mentioned as deserving punishment. However this may be, the determination of the Government will form the subject of an amendment in the Chamber, and will be ferociously attacked by the Boulangists and the anti-Semites at the political meetings.

TWO CHILDREN BURNED TO DEATH.

A deaf and dumb tailor at Southampton knocked over a paraffin lamp in his house last night, and set the place in flames. He attempted to raise an alarm, but before he could make any one understand what was the matter, the fire had spread and two children were burned to death. A third child was very badly injured.

MR. HENSCHEL'S SYMPHONY CONCERT.

The deathday of Richard Wagner was celebrated a week in advance at Mr. Henschel's Symphony Concert last night, when the programme consisted almost entirely of works by the "Master." The only exception was made in favour of Beethoven's "Eroica" symphony, and in this, perhaps, the orchestra touched high-water mark. Excellent as each section of the fine company of musicians was, the playing of the horns in the beautiful scherzo was especially worthy of praise. The first example of Wagner's genius given was the overture to "The Mastersingers of Nuremberg," a work full of bold realism and antitheses, of vivid delineations of mediæval German life drawn with exuberant fancy. The prelude to "Parsifal," the great musical Passion play, illustrating the struggles and triumph of love, faith, and hope, followed; and this, in turn, was succeeded by "Träume," a study to "Tristan und Isolde." This latter, a charming and unaffected musical suggestion of "Dreams," has been scored from the orchestral parts once in Wagner's possession. A notable concert was brought to a close by an effective performance of the prelude and finale from "Tristan und Isolde," the closing scena being an adaptation for orchestra only of what is in the original a soprano solo with orchestral accompaniment. An effort was made to encore the "Träume" by a very full house, and the programme in general was highly appreciated.

The Ruskin Museum at Sheffield, which is being removed to new quarters is to be opened about the middle of April by the Earl of Carlisle.

CADBURY'S COCOA is a refined concentration of the strength-sustaining principle of the flesh-forming constituents of the Cocoa-nib. Delicious, nutritious, easily digested, and of great economy a sixpenny packet yielding fourteen large breakfast cups of perfect Cocoa. It is absolutely pure.

THE LONDON SCHOOL BOARD "SCANDALS."

(BY AN INSIDER.)

Long and loud raged the debate yesterday afternoon round the eternal "Scandals." Mr. Laing moved an amendment on Mr. Councillor Foster's resolution—which started on its weary way on the 25th November, 1889—asking the Government to appoint a committee to inquire as to the sites and buildings belonging to the School Board for London. Mr. Laing made a lengthy but temperate speech in support of his motion, and was seconded by Mr. Lobb in a lengthy and intemperate one. Mr. Helby followed with a careful statement which was likewise lengthy, defending the general action of the School Board attacked some weeks ago by Mr. Stanley, and throwing the responsibility of much of the bad building on the party headed in those days by Mr. Stanley. Then came Mr. Rutson and Mr. Coxhead, Prebendary Eyton and Mr. Foster, Colonel Prendergast and Mr. Stanley. The latter rebutted some of Mr. Helby's statements affecting himself—the debate being for a great part a mere party quarrel, recriminations being freely exchanged. Mr. Headlam pointed the true moral of the whole, that bad wages means bad work. The division was then taken, and the amendment was carried by 23 votes to 22. It was then agreed to amend the amendment, thus become the substantive resolution, by asking Sir Richard Temple to move for a Select Committee; and the resolution as amended was voted on, and resulted in a tie. The chairman then declared that he was in favour of the resolution, and as a private member would have voted for it, but as chairman of the Board he declined to vote. The motion thus dropped, leaving matters in a very uncomfortable position, and unhappily also leaving all the exaggerations which have caused such unnecessary panic to spread unchecked and without reliable contradiction.

REFORM OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

LORD ROSEBERY'S VIEWS.

The first number of the *Scottish Liberal* contains an article by Lord Rosebery on the Reform of the House of Lords. He points out that "the overwhelming majority of Liberals in Great Britain and Ireland are prepared to give precedence to Ireland; but the struggle for the second place is keen. Scotland and Wales demand priority for particular measures. England with its twenty six millions, and more especially London with its vast political field rather scratched than ploughed by recent legislation, may possibly claim a not insignificant position." The Liberal victory at the general election, however, "would only give us the command of the country. The citadel that commands it would remain impregnable and untouched. That citadel is the House of Lords: a House composed at this moment of some 560 members, of whom a few, from twenty-five to thirty, would be in harmony with the House of Commons should the next general election give, as we believe it will, a Liberal majority. Sanguine men say that if all Liberal peers attended, the maimed, the halt, and the blind, and if all of every age could be collected, our army might be raised to a total of three dozen, including a disproportionate number of officers. I am speaking of lords temporal. Of lords spiritual I dare predict nothing. But I would not advise Scottish Liberals to build extravagant hopes on lords spiritual if I thought they were likely to do so. You may send up a bill for Irish Home Rule from the House of Commons by a majority of 200 if you please; it will, so far as frail humanity can predict, be rejected by a majority of some 500 in the House of Lords. This would be the case, not merely with Home Rule, but in all probability with every other Liberal measure. Yet we sit planning the precedence and weighing the importance of our various reforms, like children playing on Vesuvius when the seismograph predicts an immediate eruption. This, then, is the position to which, so far as I know, hardly a Liberal thinks it worth while to pay any attention. 'It will all come right,' he says, if pressed. Whereas it will all come wrong."

Turning to the question of methods of reform, Lord Rosebery proceeds:—"Suppose we could establish a body independent of dissolutions, which would last for a fixed term of, say, seven years, and which would be elected by, say, municipalities and county councils, we should have an estate, not like the House of Lords, indiscriminatingly hereditary, . . . but a chamber dependent on the people, chosen by responsible bodies, and of a certain though limited duration."

A FORECAST OF THE GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAMME.

England (Mr. Ashmead-Bartlett's paper) gives the following forecast of the Government's programme for the session:—A sum of £20,000,000 will be devoted to the extension and development of the Ashbourne Act, the security being so arranged that neither the State nor the British taxpayer can suffer. The Irish Drainage Bills of last year will be reintroduced. A million of Mr. Goschen's surplus, which is estimated at £4,000,000, will be given to assisted free education, but the help so given will come from national funds, and in such a way as not to place Voluntary schools at any disadvantage. The surplus will further be devoted not merely to the reduction of taxation, but to give help to the volunteers and to the improvement of our naval and military armaments. Irish Local Government may be sketched in outline, but no bill will be introduced. A development of Indian Railways is a matter likely to be considered during the session.

A GREAT COLLECTION OF BIRDS.

A large collection of curiosities and natural history treasures, notably a great collection of stuffed birds, is about to be offered for sale by a gentleman of Surrey. All the birds were taken in the county of Surrey, and the greater part in the beautiful district round Godalming and Guildford. The collection was the result of sixty-five years' personal interest and perseverance on the part of a well-known naturalist, who resided in the district. The back of each case has painted scenery in keeping with the habitat of each species, and many of the rarest British birds are included in the collection. There is a good specimen of that scarce bird, the great bustard, and several ruffs, with some rare species of sea birds, which had wandered so far inland as Frensham Pond, of which Gilbert White speaks so often in his "Natural History of Selborne" as harbouring many kinds of wild fowl. There are also several uncommon species, which are labelled as having been killed so near the heart of town as Battersea, though whether in the beautiful little park there or not is not stated.

THE POPE DECORATES THE SHAH.

The Holy Father is stated to have addressed a letter to his Majesty, the Shah of Persia, thanking that monarch for the protection and liberty accorded Catholics in Persia, and forwarding him, at the same time, the insignia of the Order of Pius IX. So far as the question of religious toleration is concerned, the Persian ruler is a most enlightened monarch.

A STORY OF MR. BALFOUR.

With Mr. Balfour's return to London has come a little story from Ireland, which is said to be true. During his stay in Dublin Mr. Balfour met a Catholic priest who did not belong to the Nationalist party. Taking an opportunity favourable for obtaining information on an interesting point, he asked the priest if, in his opinion, the Irish people were as bitter against him as they were represented to be in the newspapers favourable to Mr. Parnell? "Since you have asked me I will tell you the truth," said the priest. "If our flocks hated sin half as cordially as they hate you, there would be no use for priests in Ireland."

THE RABBIT-PROOF FENCES IN AUSTRALIA.

The rabbit-proof fences erected by New South Wales and Queensland will, when the one at present being erected on the South Australian boundary line has been completed, be 887 miles in length. It is estimated that the one in course of erection will cost about £30,000, and it is expected that by the beginning of March next it will have been completed. This fence starts from the Murray at Chowilla, and runs to the north-east corner of this colony, a distance of 346 miles. The work was let in nine separate contracts, of which seven, representing a distance of 258 miles, have been almost completed. The completion of the scheme being carried out by the two Governments will embrace 887 miles of fencing, of which 627 miles will have been erected by New South Wales and 260 by Queensland.

DESIGNS FOR THE WATKIN TOWER.

In offering prizes for designs for the Watkin Tower the promoters arranged that the plans should be sent in at or before the end of February unless further time was applied for by foreign competitors. Such application has been made from America, where a considerable number of architects and engineers are preparing to join in the competition. Accordingly, the period for sending in designs has been extended by a month. The question of the site has now been finally settled, though its precise locality has been kept a secret. It will be found in convenient contiguity to the Metropolitan Railway, of which Sir Edward Watkin is chairman.

PICKPOCKETS AT LADY HOPETOUN'S RECEPTION.

Some of the Australian papers say that pockets have been picked at Lady Hopetoun's receptions. This suggests a reminiscence of another colonial reception held by a Royal lady, where a theft of jewels was adroitly managed by a gentleman who had had the honour of being among the company.

Bord's Pianos.—25 per cent. discount for cash, or 15s. per month (Second-hand, 10s. 6d. per month on the three years' system. Illustrated Lists free of CHAS. STILES and CO., 42, SOUTHAMPTON ROW, HOLBORN, W.C. Pianos exchanged.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A POLITICO-MATHEMATICAL PROBLEM.

To the EDITOR *of the* PALL MALL GAZETTE.

SIR,—You say in your Occasional Note to-day on this subject, "that whereas Mr. Parnell took one-twentieth of what he asked, the *Times* paid 2,500 times what it offered. It will beat the ingenuity, we fancy, of the most unscrupulous Unionists to make out that this was a compromise in which Mr. Parnell made the proportionately greater concession." Now I disclaim any title to be ranked among the "most unscrupulous Unionists," yet I will venture to offer the following more or less ingenious view of the matter in opposition to the one you have laid down. When a claim is made by one person upon another, and the latter admits that something is due from him, the usual method of arriving at an extra-judicial arrangement is by the simple process of "splitting the difference," whereby both parties meet each other half way. This rough and ready method may be said to constitute the law of compromise. In the Parnell-Walter case the difference to be "split" was £99,998, and if the parties had settled in that way Mr. Walter would have paid £50,001, instead of £5,000. Now, I contend that this amount of £50,001 was really the centre of gravity, so to speak, between the two parties, and that Mr. Parnell's concession would be greater or less than Mr. Walter's in exact proportion as the amount agreed upon was less or greater than £50,001. Consequently as only £5,000 was agreed upon, is it not clear that Mr. Parnell has accepted only one-tenth part of, and Mr. Walter pays nine-tenths less than, the amount which would have been fixed by the law of compromise? If any of "the most unscrupulous" Parnellites among your readers will refute the above, I shall be glad, with your always urbane permission, to see how he does it.—I am, yours faithfully,

R. H. B.

94, *Darenth-road, Stamford-hill, N., February* 5.

M.P.'S AND THE EIGHT HOURS BILL.

To the EDITOR *of the* PALL MALL GAZETTE.

SIR,—I can corroborate Mr. Cuninghame Graham as to Mr. Haldane's misapprehension upon the movement for an Eight Hours Bill. No recent movement has been so thoroughly spontaneous. The draft bill of the Fabian Society was not begun until last autumn, and was then undertaken because the society was being pressed from all directions to take up the question. It is a common error to impute perfection to opponents' organization. There has been positively no such London influence as Mr. Haldane so picturesquely describes. I only wish the wage-earners were half so well organized and administered.

What has been happening has been a remarkable growth of solidarity of feeling among the wage-earners all over the country. The "New Unionism" is doing for England the work of the Knights of Labour in America. The little branches of the new colossal Railway and Gas Stokers' Unions, which include, for the first time, general unskilled labourers in any occupation, are enrolling members in the quietest rural villages. (I know one in Surrey where there are now thirty.) An underground propaganda on labour questions, not radiating from any particular centre, is running all over the country in a new way—much as "the Friars" seem to have prepared the road for John Ball. New "labour" journals, unknown to nine-tenths of your readers, have sprung into circulations of tens of thousands. Wherever two or three workmen are gathered together there is to-day a "labour programme" of some kind in the midst of them. Even the old trades unionism has become political. Moreover, as I have before vainly insisted, the wage earner is a much better political economist on questions of wages and hours than the middle class. He never bases any arguments on the wages fund theory (like Sir Lyon Playfair), now universally exploded. He never supposes (like Sir Wilfrid Lawson) that wages depend upon the amount of his product, because he is conscious (as Mr. Giffen shows) that the market value of his aggregate product is at least 50 per cent. above the whole of the actual remuneration paid to every person who has taken any part whatsoever in production (the balance being rent and interest). He knows well enough that wages depend on the "strength" of the labour market, and that (except on the margin of cultivation) that they (including all salaries) are always well within the product. And finally he is aware (herein agreeing with Mr. John Morley) that on these questions "the answer of modern statesmanship is that unfettered individual competition is not a principle to which the regulation of industry may be entrusted."—("Life of Cobden," Vol. I., p. 298, 303.) But the ordinary provincial politician lives in a fool's paradise. The newspapers which he reads and the political speakers whom he hears never attempt to enlighten him on these points. He wants no social reform unless to enfranchise his leasehold or to be free to buy an estate now in settlement. And unfortunately the smouldering discontent in wage-earning circles, at the barrenness of political clap-trap, finds no articulate expression in recognized political channels. But let the leaders look to it, or they will be rudely undeceived at the poll. The great need of the day is the economic education of the provincial politician.—I am, &c.,

SIDNEY WEBB.

4, *Park Village East, N.W., Feb.* 6.

THE AUSTRALASIAN FEDERATION CONFERENCE.

The conference of representatives of the Australian colonies convened for the purpose of considering a scheme of Australasian federation and federal defence assembled at Melbourne yesterday. The following gentlemen were present:—The Hon. Duncan Gillies, Premier of Victoria, and the Hon. A. Deakin (Victoria); Sir Henry Parkes and the Hon. W. McMillan (New South Wales); the Hon. D. Cockburn and the Hon. T. Playford (South Australia); the Hon. J. M. Macrossan and Sir S. W. Griffith (Queensland); the Hon. Captain Russel and Sir J. Hall (New Zealand); the Hon. A. I. Clarke and the Hon. B. S. Bird (Tasmania); and the Hon. Sir James Steere (Western Australia). Sir John Thurston was to have attended on behalf of the Fiji Archipelago, but was prevented from being present. The Conference by a unanimous vote elected Mr. Duncan Gillies, as the chief representative of the colony in which its meetings are held, to the presidential chair, and Mr. George H. Jenkins, clerk to the Legislative Assembly of Victoria, was appointed secretary.—*Reuter*

CHURCHMEN IN COUNCIL.

While at Lambeth Palace the trial of the Bishop of Lincoln was proceeding yesterday, Churchmen in council at Westminster were considering Ritual difficulties. They were pledging themselves to support the historical and traditional opinions of the Church of England, and expressing their loyalty to the Catholic principles on which she took her stand at the Reformation, when she reasserted her primitive doctrine and practice. This was in effect the resolution moved by the Rev. T. Teignmouth Shore, who thought that the wide latitude allowed to both clergy and laity was detrimental and injurious to the best interests of the Church. Was it fair, he asked, that the interpretations of some of the plainest laws laid down could be so radically different. He thought that obedience to the constituted authorities of the Church was absolutely necessary even where the decision was not as they believed according to their consciences. The second resolution had reference to Convocation, at the mention of which body as a constituted authority loud and prolonged laughter was to be heard from the clerical audience. It stated that a satisfactory solution of ritualistic difficulties was to be obtained by the exercise of its powers. A petition to Convocation urged its members to make perfectly clear by means of enactments what is optional and what permissive in the performance of the offices and services of the Church.

LONDON STREET TRAMWAYS COMPANY.

The annual general meeting of the London Street Tramways Company was held at the Cannon-street Hotel yesterday. Mr W. R. Bacon, the chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, said the net revenue showed an increase of £3,152 17*s.* 2*d.*, and they were able to pay a dividend at the rate of 7 per cent. as against 6 per cent. in the corresponding half-year; £1,000 had been placed to the permanent way repairs account, and £882 had been carried to the new account. They had had to increase their stock of horses and trams to meet their larger traffic. The company had suffered a loss during the half-year on the barge and cartage account, owing to the strike at the docks. The directors were watching the experiments made by their larger neighbours with regard to mechanical electrical traction, and would be prepared to adopt any successful system. Mr. J. W. Gillies seconded the motion, which was adopted.

BOULANGIST ACTIVITY IN PARIS.

The Boulangist committee has decided to call daily meetings in all the electoral districts of the department of the Seine until the 16th inst., when the elections to replace the Deputies whose return has been invalidated will be held. Several meetings were held yesterday, but were unattended by any noteworthy incident.—*Reuter*.

"CLARISSA" AT THE VAUDEVILLE.

MR. BUCHANAN'S NEW PLAY.

The latest version of Samuel Richardson's masterpiece may or may not prove attractive to the general body of playgoers, but at any rate, those lovers of the drama who take the trouble to devote a little serious thought to a serious play must recognize in it much that is sound, much that is theatrically and ethically beautiful, and much that is true to human nature in its highest flights. If for no other reason, Mr. Buchanan's "Clarissa" will be remembered in the future as having given to the stage two exquisitely-finished characters—one, that of the heroine, depending in a great measure for its impressiveness upon the genius of its interpreter; the other, Philip Belford, so powerfully conceived and fashioned as almost to "play itself." These two figures stand out in the boldest relief from the rest of the picture: they dwarf their surroundings; they turn the miserable rake Lovelace into a mere pigmy; in fact, they may almost be said to minimize the general effect of a play which is on the whole mapped out with remarkable skill and discretion. There is, however, something to be said on the other side. Much that is unpleasant—possibly distasteful—is to be found in "Clarissa," and perhaps the most painful phase of a painful story has been unduly accentuated and insisted upon by the author. The central theme of that story will no doubt be well remembered by many, though probably there are but few novel-readers to-day who can claim to have perused Richardson's lengthy work of fiction from cover to cover. Clarissa Harlowe, the daughter of a country gentleman, throws herself upon the protection of a vicious young rake to escape from an odious marriage into which her parents are trying to force her. She believes in Richard Lovelace implicitly, and he repays her confiding love by entrapping her into a mock-marriage the shame and degradation of which prove her death-blow. This is the "plain unvarnished tale" which Mr. Buchanan has set himself to tell upon the Vaudeville stage. The first act is unquestionably weak. The sternness of the elder Harlowe and his son is almost absurd in its outrageous cruelty, and might well be softened by both actors. At the same time, Mr. Solmes, the objectionable suitor—though played by Mr. Cyril Maude with great tact and ability—is a Gilbertian caricature, who might have stepped straight out of one of the Savoy operas. The second act closes with an admirable situation; for no scene in the piece is more dramatically effective than that in which poor drink-sodden Belford discovers that the man whom he has just assisted in luring Clarissa into a false marriage is the seducer of his own sister. But it is the third act which raises the story of the unfortunate heroine to the highest pitch of excitement; and here—as has been said—strength of action is accompanied by an unnecessary dwelling on a particularly disagreeable situation. It is no longer a case of seduction, but one of brutal outrage, led up to with an amount of realism which would perhaps be appropriate enough in a lurid drama of the "Tosca" type, but which certainly seems out of place in the softer atmosphere of "Clarissa."

Of the heroine's exquisite, though lengthy, death-scene in the last act much might be said. Here, as throughout the piece, Miss Winifred Emery played with an amount of truth and power which should at once elevate her to a position in the foremost ranks of our English actresses. No better performance than her Clarissa Harlowe could be imagined; and it was all the more admirable because it never suggested noisy passion or artificial suffering. Mr. Thorne, in the part of Belford, grasped a great opportunity with excellent effect, and his reading of the character was consistent and sound throughout. Mr. Thalberg's Lovelace was unequal. He is by no means devoid of grace and polish, which are all-important in a rôle of this kind, but he has a tendency in the direction of false emphasis and an air of insincerity which may well be held in check. Good work in minor characters was done by Mr. Fred Thorne, Miss Ella Bannister, and Miss Mary Collette.

PROBABLE REOPENING OF HER MAJESTY'S

Yesterday a meeting of about forty of the general employés of Her Majesty's Theatre was held at the Marquis of Lorne tavern, St. Martin's-lane, under the presidency of Mr. F. Gurshon, with the object of co-operating to obtain the salaries due to them. The proceedings before Mr. Justice Chitty yesterday, and the possibility of the theatre being again opened, were reported. The meeting thanked Mr. Augustus Harris for his promise of assistance, and agreed to take steps to ask other managers to help them out of their difficulties.

The Exchange Telegraph Company is informed that there are now hopes of arrangements being made for an early reopening of Her Majesty's Theatre and the continuance of the "Cinderella" pantomime. Most of the difficulties, so far as financial matters are concerned, have been overcome, and Mr. Whinney has convened a meeting of the principal artistes for to-day, when it is hoped that the details will be finally settled and the day of reopening fixed. In the meantime the removal of the artistes' properties has been suspended and the employés have been asked to remain at call.

SELECTING A CANDIDATE FOR MID-GLAMORGAN.

A meeting of the Mid-Glamorgan Liberal Association for the selection of a Liberal candidate to contest the seat vacant by the death of Mr. Talbot was held yesterday at Aberavon. Mr. Llewellyn Howell presided, and 100 delegates were present. Out of fifteen candidates asked, eleven had declined to stand. The names submitted to the association were—Messrs. R. D. Burnie (Swansea), S. T. Evans (solicitor, Neath), Abel Thomas (barrister, London), and the Rev. J. Jones (Baptist minister, Newport). The voting was as follows:—Evans, 77; Burnie, 10; Thomas, 8; and Jones, 5. Mr. Evans was therefore adopted.

AN EXTRAORDINARY CASE.

On January 27 last, John Haynes, an inmate of Chertsey workhouse, cut his throat, and at the adjourned inquest yesterday evidence was given by Mr. Cooper, the relieving officer who gave the order admitting the deceased to the house, that he on January 23 brought him at his request a razor, Haynes being then an infirmary patient. A few days before, Haynes, who was a metropolitan police ex-sergeant, in receipt of £30 a year pension and insured, signed a will in Cooper's favour. The jury returned a verdict of suicide while temporarily insane, and than added a rider that death was accelerated by Cooper's act in bringing the razor, and they considered he should be severely censured. Mr. Roumieu, coroner, said had the verdict been *felo de se* he should have committed Cooper on a charge of murder as an accessory before the fact. The depositions will be sent to the Local Government Board.

STRANGE CHARGE AGAINST A RECTOR.

At a special meeting of Malmesbury magistrates yesterday the Rev. William Frederick Gover, rector of Oaksey, George Brain, John Ody, and Jessie Ellison were charged with riotously assembling and disturbing the peace at Minety, on December 31st. It was alleged that Brain and Ody engaged in a fight, and that Mr. Gover and Ellison aided and abetted by acting as seconds. The bench discharged Ellison, but the others were committed for trial at the Wiltshire quarter sessions.

ATTEMPTED SUICIDE OF A CRICKETER.

At Heywood yesterday, Walter Robinson, a well-known Lancashire county cricketer, and who on many occasions had played with the All England eleven, was charged with attempting to commit suicide by taking strychnine. He took the poison last evening, but prompt medical aid was procured, and he was brought round. Robinson promised not to make another attempt on his life, and was discharged.

THE COLLAPSE OF THE COPPER SYNDICATE.

A Paris telegram to Reuter reports that an order was issued yesterday by the examining magistrate for instituting proceedings against MM. Laveissière, Joubert, and Secrétan, directors of the Société des Métaux, and M. Hentsch, chairman of the Comptoir d'Escompte, on the charge of having distributed fictitious dividends; M. Secrétan being also prosecuted for the illegal forestalment of merchandise.

A HEADMASTER'S ACTION FOR LIBEL.

In the Queen's Bench yesterday Mr. Edward Willam Moore, M.A., Dublin, and formerly headmaster of a high grade school under the Leeds School Board, sued Wesley Lee, clerk to the Leeds School Board, to recover damages for libel charging plaintiff with falsely marking the school register for his own pecuniary benefit. There was no defence to the action, and the jury gave the plaintiff £300 damages.

A CURIOUS DISPUTE IN BAPTIST CIRCLES.

A curious baptismal dispute in connection with the "Strict Baptist Church" at Highbury-place, has now been satisfactorily settled. This congregation was accused of admitting into fellowship without the ordeal of immersion a lady who, unfortunately, is afflicted with physical deformity its excuse being that in her case the ceremony was impossible. "The London Association of Strict Baptist Churches," did not deem this a valid plea, and excluded the place of worship in Highbury. The elders and congregation have now admitted that their "mistake was in being too ready to accept the idea of impossibility." The lady in question has been duly immersed, "seated in her own chair, and wearing a dress specially designed for the occasion." and the Church taken back into the association.

LONDON AND SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANY.

The Hon. Ralph Dutton, chairman of the London and South Western Railway Company, presided at a half-yearly general meeting held at Waterloo Station yesterday. The speech made by him, in moving the adoption of the report, was of a very hopeful, though miscellaneous, character. Dealing first with the lines completed by the company and the works now in progress by them, the hon. chairman said that the Netley and Fareham railway had been completed and was now open for service. That line would prove a very great advantage to the neighbourhood, and connecting as it did Southampton and Portsmouth, it could hardly fail to pay them for their outlay. The widening of the line between Vauxhall and Waterloo was going on as fast as it could under the circumstances. They worked under great difficulties, for their traffic had been carried on both above and below the points where alterations were being made. Their traffic, however, had not been stopped for a single day. (Hear, hear, and applause.) Vauxhall station was approaching completion, and would really be a very important feature in the district. It would be a very handsome structure, and would be well adapted for carrying on the large traffic which they hoped to have there. They had also undertaken the widening of the line between Barnstaple and Ilfracombe, and they were improving Ilfracombe station. Both these works were proceeding satisfactorily. Proceeding to examine the accounts, Mr. Dutton pointed out that they had a balance of £40,869, out of which they could pay a dividend of 7½ per cent. per annum, carrying over the sum of £21,903, as against £10,000 last year. (Hear, hear, and applause.) This was the largest dividend which had been declared within the last forty years, and the balance also was far larger than that of many previous years. This dividend was the result of a steady increase in the business of the line. Referring lastly to the Southampton Dock, the chairman said that they were now within measurable distance of its completion. They would soon have a dock capable of taking in the largest merchant ships in the world. (Hear, hear.) He hoped also that they might now see some of their old friends back again. The chairman then formally moved the adoption of the report, which, after a lengthy and not particularly relevant discussion, was adopted.

A special meeting, asking the shareholders to sanction the borrowing of two sums of £121,066 and £50,000, under certain Acts, was then held. The loans were sanctioned, and a private bill now before Parliament was approved by the shareholders—not, however, before some severe criticisms had been passed upon the abandonment of the works at South Kensington, and upon the recently opened Wimbledon and Fulham railway. The meeting, which lasted something like two hours, separated after the usual complimentary votes of thanks.

LONDON AND COUNTY BANK.

Mr. Frederick Francis presided yesterday at the annual meeting of the proprietors of the London and County Banking Company, which was held at the Cannon-street Hotel: and, in moving the adoption of the report, which stated that the net profits for the half-year ended 31st December amounted to £189,995, and that the dividend for the year was 20 per cent., said the magnitude of the figures in the accounts would probably astonish most people. The liabilities of the bank were about £40,800,000, while they had assets to a still larger amount. The figures were such as they might justly be proud of. During last year, the trade, manufactures, and commerce of the country had been prosperous, but there was one blot in the shape of the difficulties which had arisen between capital and labour. These were causing great inconvenience and serious loss; but he strongly hoped they would be overcome by the ingenuity of parties on either side. (Applause.) Farming business was improving, and farmers were more hopeful than a year or two ago. The money market was in an unsettled condition, but at the present time was decidedly in favour of bankers. It was as impossible to foretell the state of the money market as to forecast the weather. It was a serious study, and so far as he could see its ways were past finding out. (Laughter and hear, hear.) Many hidden influences were at work in regard to the necessity for money in in various parts of the world, and to attempt to interfere with the ordinary course of the money market was a great mistake. The bank had available assets of about five-sixths of the amount due to the public—an exceedingly large proportion. During the year the number of accounts had increased 5,527, and the number of shareholders was now 7,700. Mr. F. Youle seconded the motion, which was agreed to unanimously; and in a similar way it was resolved to authorize the directors to pay to Mr. McEwan, who, after fifty years' service, is retiring from the position of general manager, the sum of £750 a year, in addition to the allowance to which he is entitled from the bank provident fund.

The building firm of Messrs. Cubitt and Co. have agreed to an advance of wages to the bricklayers' labourers employed on their works at Grocers' Hall, the rate now being 6*d.* in place of 5¾*d.* per hour. The demand was made on behalf of the men last week, and was at once acceded to.

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